

De Michelis arrives in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis arrived in Israel Wednesday to discuss Europe's role in a proposed Middle East peace conference. Talks will also centre on Israel's economic integration into the European Community when the group of nations becomes a single market in 1992, foreign ministry officials said. Mr. De Michelis was greeted by his Israeli counterpart, David Levy, at the Ben Gurion international airport near Tel Aviv, but neither spoke to reporters. Mr. De Michelis was to meet with President Chaim Herzog, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defence Minister Moshe Arens and Shimon Peres, leader of the opposition Labour Party, during his two-day visit. The Italian visitor will also meet with Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. De Michelis has visited Israel in the past as a member of the so-called "troika," which is made up of the past, present and future heads of the European Community (EC). The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to sponsor a regional peace conference, tentatively scheduled for October. European nations have sought a role in the talks. Israel has agreed that the EC can send an observer.



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S. Arabia lifts ban on transit for Jordanians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Saudi Arabia has eased travel restrictions on Jordanians in effect since the Gulf crisis, according to an announcement by the Saudi embassy.

Saudi Arabia, in retaliation for Jordan's stand during the conflict, prevented Jordanians working in Gulf states from crossing its territory by land.

Jordanians will be able to travel in transit through Saudi territory to other Arab Gulf states and Yemen," the Jordan News Agency quoted a Saudi embassy statement as saying. The announcement said the Saudi government has allowed Jordanians working in the Gulf states and Yemen to get transit visas from the embassy here.

The decision included those whose applications for visas were turned down by the embassy, the announcement added.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour welcomed the decision and described it as a positive step. He expressed thanks for the Saudi government for responding positively to the Jordanian government's request in this regard.

Dr. Ensour voiced hope that relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia will improve "for the best of the two brotherly peoples and the Arab Nation and its interests."

Around 4,000 Jordanians had to leave their cars and other belongings in Amman and fly back, Dr. Ensour said.

"The Saudi embassy will issue transit visas for Jordanians to allow them to go back to their jobs by land," Dr. Ensour told Reuters.

"We welcome this initiative as a step in the right direction."

The Saudi embassy confirmed the new rules and Arab diplomats said they believed the decision would help ease the strained relations between the two countries. Saudi Arabia, which withdrew its ambassador to Jordan at the height of the crisis, has not returned him yet although Amman sent its envoy back to Riyadh in October.

Iraqi infants dying of malnutrition

NIOSIA (AP) — The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Wednesday that 76 newborn infants died in a northern Iraqi city last month because of food shortages resulting from economic sanctions. The agency, in a dispatch from Mosul monitored in Nicosia, also said 816 cases of miscarriage were reported in July and August and that these were attributed mainly to "defiant overflights by U.S. warplanes."

Iraq has complained to the United Nations that U.S. and other allied warplanes were penetrating its airspace in low sorties in violation of the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire. The INA dispatch quoted Dr. Nada Ramzi Al Omari, a gynaecologist at the Mosul Hospital, as saying she had registered 424 cases of miscarriage caused by the aircraft overflights and the economic blockade in the past two months.

He said talks with groups based in Damascus and with the fundamentalist movement Hamas to try to persuade them to attend the PNC session had made no progress.

"Discussions with the dissident

PNC delayed again

TUNIS (Agencies) — A meeting of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) to decide whether to attend a Middle East peace conference has been postponed for a third time because of disputes among factions, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) source said Wednesday.

The PNC meeting will adopt the Palestinian position on the peace process proposed by Washington and Moscow for October.

The meeting of 450 leaders was originally planned in Algiers for mid-September and then for Sept. 20. The PLO source said it had now been put off to Sept. 23.

He said talks with groups based in Damascus and with the fundamentalist movement Hamas to try to persuade them to attend the PNC session had made no progress.

"Discussions with the dissident

Gaza University to reopen

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli defence ministry announced Wednesday that the Islamic University in the Occupied Gaza Strip will be allowed to reopen for the first time since the start of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories 44 months ago.

It was the fifth Palestinian university given permission to operate. Bir Zeit University in the occupied West Bank remains shut down.

Israel closed the six universities shortly after the start of the Palestinian Uprising against Israeli occupation in December 1987. The army contended they were centres of anti-Israel activities.

The United States and international human rights groups have repeatedly called for reopening the schools, saying that their closure constitutes collective punishment.

The Islamic University had an enrollment of 5,000 students when it was closed.

"The opening of the university is part of the defence policy to allow a gradual return to normal of the educational system in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip," a defence ministry statement said.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens met with directors of the university Wednesday to inform them of the decision, Palestinians said.

Sheikh Mohammad Awad, the chairman of the university's board of trustees, called Mr. Arens' decision "a goodwill gesture."

Lawyer Fayez Abu Rahme said the reopening of the university was "a fair and just procedure."

A Palestinian communist leader was questioned by police Tuesday for alleged incitement against Israel.

Ghassan Khatib, who has spent seven months in prison for anti-Israeli activities during the uprising, was the third Palestinian leader to be questioned by police in the past eight days.

On Aug. 26, Israeli police questioned Faisal Hussein and Hanan Ashrawi on charges they had contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

U.N.: Iraq needs \$2.4b in oil sales to buy food

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is expected to suggest this week that Iraq be allowed to sell up to \$2.4 billion worth of oil in the next six months, sources at the U.N. said late Tuesday.

But his key report on oil sales is not expected to dispute openly the \$1.6 billion ceiling put on Iraqi petroleum exports by the Security Council in an Aug. 15 resolution.

Instead he will probably recommend that the council review Iraq's needs in the next few months, the sources said. Money from the oil sales will go to cover emergency humanitarian needs and other costs.

"We are pretty certain the final version will end up not directly challenging the ceiling but point to the latest, higher U.N. humanitarian estimates and refer to the review mechanisms," said one source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The report is expected to go to the Security Council on Thursday. No Iraqi oil can flow until the 15-member body approves the document, expected next week at the earliest.

An early draft of the report estimates that Iraq's food, health and sanitation needs in the next six months are \$1.73 billion, the sources said.

Iraq also has to pay 30 per cent of its oil revenues into a fund to compensate victims of the Gulf war as well as cover U.N. costs for scrapping its weapons of mass destruction.

Consequently, the draft report suggests Iraq be permitted to sell \$2.4 billion worth of oil to cover its own needs and pay into the compensation funds, the sources said.

The draft also recommends that Turkey should be granted its request of \$264 million to get the pipeline from Iraq in use again. It is expected Ankara will be paid in oil.

Iraq has rejected the resolution, which directs all proceeds from oil sales go into a U.N. escrow account.

The council last month voted to let Iraq sell oil to import food and humanitarian supplies, pay Gulf war reparations and meet other debts arising from its invasion of Kuwait last year.

The secretary-general's report was mandated by the council to ensure that food and medicine bought with Iraqi oil money reaches needy civilians and that none is siphoned off by the Baghdad government.

Gorbachev pushes bid to shift power to republics

Decree to approve Baltic independence

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The basic for discussion, which means that amendments to the resolution can still be made.

Mr. Gorbachev failed to win a subsequent vote to accept for discussion a draft law on the measures. That motion received a simple majority, 1,200-275, but failed to win the two-thirds approval from the 2,250-member body that apparently was necessary.

"We are not adopting the law. We are only adopting it as a basis for discussion," he said. But a chorus of shouts erupted from the floor.

"All right, all right," Mr. Gorbachev said.

"The law is still up in the air," (Continued on page 5)

An electronic tally board flashed the words, "Motion not adopted." But an insistent Gorbachev, unwilling to concede defeat, unwilling to concede defeat, to persuade the lawmakers that a two-thirds margin was not necessary.

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"The law is still up in the air,"

(Continued on page 5)

Shamir justifies terrorist past

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, recalling his days as a guerrilla commander, said Wednesday that Jews were justified in using terrorism to win statehood, but that Palestinians are not.

"Personal terrorism is a way of fighting that is acceptable under certain conditions and by certain means," said Mr. Shamir.

In the interview, Mr. Shamir dropped his customary reticence about the past and defended Lehi's actions at some length.

"Under the conditions that existed then, when the Jewish people were without a voice, without a homeland, without military force, vulnerable, totally abandoned by the whole world, there was justification and also usefulness in using this extreme method, to hurt those people who were responsible for what was being done to the Jewish people," Mr. Shamir said.

Israeli historian Benny Morris confirmed that Lehi mainly targeted British officials, but said not all of them were armed. He also said the group robbed banks and extorted money from Jewish business people to finance its activities.

that is not theirs. This is the land of the people of Israel."

Mr. Shamir suggested Palestinians have no right to a homeland. "There are many Arab countries in the Middle East, there is enormous territory that every Arab can live in as his own," he said.

Mr. Shamir also claimed the methods of Lehi and Palestinian guerrilla groups were different.

"We never fought against unarmed civilians. We fought against oppressors, against occupiers, while the main targets of the Palestinian terror groups are civilians, old people, women, children," he said.

Israeli historian Benny Morris

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Kuwaiti cabinet okays pact with U.S.

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies) —

The government Wednesday endorsed a defence agreement with the United States that would allow the Americans to use Kuwaiti military installations and to pre-position military equipment in the emirate.

Kuwait's official news agency, KUNA, said the announcement came after an extraordinary cabinet meeting headed by Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah, the crown prince.

The Pentagon announced last week that the U.S. administration was seeking such an agreement with Kuwait.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said he expected that agreement to be completed soon and stressed that the United States did not intend to keep permanent bases in Kuwait.

The agency quoted the minister of state for cabinet affairs, Dhari Al Ottman, as saying that the agreement would cover the use of Kuwaiti facilities.

Mr. Ottman said the 10-year agreement aimed at "achieving close cooperation between the two countries to boost the military capabilities of the Kuwaiti armed forces through programming and training."

Iraq marks war anniversary with call for better Iran ties

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq marked the anniversary of the start of its eight-year war with Iran Wednesday with newspaper editorials urging better relations between Baghdad and Tehran.

Up to a million people were killed in the war, including thousands of civilians who died when long-range missiles smashed into Tehran and Baghdad and other key cities.

Iraq dates the outbreak of the war, the Middle East's longest and bloodiest conflict in modern times, as September 4, 1980, when it said Iran attacked four eastern border towns.

Iraq's invasion of Iran along a 500-kilometre front on Sept. 22 is regarded by Iran as the beginning of the conflict, baited by a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in August 1988.

The Iraqi army newspaper Al Quds al-Arabi, which does not normally publish Wednesday, printed a special edition.

In a front-page editorial, it said the people of Iraq wanted "peace and security in order for the black cloud that is hanging over the countries of the region to be lifted."

House in the regular session.

In the extraordinary session the House discussed and approved 13 draft and temporary laws out of a total of 90 topics listed on its agenda for the session.

In its meeting on Wednesday the House approved temporary laws related to supplies.

The two laws define the role of the Ministry of Supply in implementing the Kingdom's supply policy and in securing its needs and reserves of basic food supplies.

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Scientists say Gulf ecological damage more on global than on regional level

BAHRAIN (AP) — Gulf scientists Tuesday said that ecological damage from the Gulf war will cause less damage to the region than global warming and the so-called greenhouse gases.

Twelve experts from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, part of a task force set up by the U.N. environment programme and the Regional Organisation for Protection of Marine Environment, expressed concern over global warming's effect on Gulf waters.

Walter J. Vreeland, an adviser to the Bahrain-based Environmental Protection committee, said fires in Kuwaiti oil fields torched during the Gulf war are expected to do less damage to the global climate.

"We realise the oil fires are going to go away... the actual carbon monoxide generated by the oil fires is 2 per cent of the global carbon monoxide," he said. "It is not significant."

Kuwait has extinguished about half the number of the blazing oil wells and already the skies of Bahrain are slightly brighter than earlier in the year.

Al Sayed Mohammad, a Qatari scientist and coordinator of the team, said the world consumes, or burns, more than 30 million barrels of oil daily while fires in the Kuwaiti oil fields burn only three million barrels.

"The three million barrels is nothing compared to the 30 million barrels," Mr. Mohammad said.

He said carbon monoxide is expected to raise world temperature by one to four degrees Celsius by the year 2030. Carbon monoxide is an inevitable product of the burning of fossil fuels.

"As a result, Mr. Mohammad said, the sea level will increase by 30 centimetres to 70 centimetres by the end of next century."

Mr. Vreeland said: "This area will be affected, but how much is really open for discussion."

In the Gulf, global warming could mean water shortages and parching of the earth in a region that is mainly desert. The region is a major oil producing centre, alone sitting on two-thirds of the world's proven oil reserves.

Makram Gerges, senior programme officer with the U.N. Environmental Programme, said rapid development in the Gulf

financed by the region's oil riches must not be at the expense of the environment.

Mr. Gerges said pollution will increase in the Gulf if it is not controlled by its states.

Those represented in the Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment are Iraq, Iran and the GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. No officials from Iraq and Iran were at the conference.

The scientists were expected to submit their recommendations on the environment to the regional governments at the end of their four-day meeting Wednesday.

Oil spill

In London, the environmental group Greenpeace said Wednesday large stretches of Saudi Arabia's coastline had been damaged almost beyond repair by oil spilled during the Gulf crisis and too little was being done to clean it up.

Greenpeace activist Paul Horsman, who coordinated a three-week expedition to Saudi Arabia, said only a massive international effort would save wildlife in the area and restore the coastline's fragile ecosystem.

"Marine life is still dying," Mr. Horsman said in a statement. "Each time a bird dives for food it becomes coated in oil and birds trying to find food on the beaches must be continually ingesting oil."

He said some of the longer term effects of the disaster were becoming apparent only now, six months after the end of the Gulf war, and unless the oil is cleaned up it will continue to wreak environmental havoc.

Greenpeace reported last month that the international effort to clean up the Gulf was winding down — despite hundreds of kilometres of beaches still fouled by oil.

He said the Greenpeace expedition to Saudi Arabia, part of a two-month Gulf-wide scientific programme, encountered only one clean-up effort — a group of about 50 workers clearing a small section of beach using shovels and barrows.

"The oil they collected was being dumped on the sand dunes," Mr. Horsman said.

7 killed as Turkish troops search for kidnap victims

ANKARA (AP) — Clashes between Turkish troops and Kurdish rebels have killed at least seven people, as a wide-scale military operation continued in eastern Turkey to locate five — abducted Westerners, officials said late Tuesday.

Three Americans, a Briton and an Australian were abducted Friday night from their vehicles by Kurdish rebels in Bingol province. They were on an expedition seeking the site of Noah's Ark, which the Bible says landed on Mount Ararat in present-day eastern Turkey after the great flood.

A Turkish driver told police that the kidnappers identified themselves as guerrillas belonging to the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

Turkish officials have maintained a strict silence about the

search, which involves about 2,500 soldiers and police and covers several provinces.

But a senior government official in the provincial centre of Diyarbakir told the Associated Press that the security forces had so far not made any contact with the kidnappers.

He said no American or other Western troops or experts were assisting in the search.

About 2,500 Western troops are based at Silopi on the Iraqi border to protect Iraqi Kurds after their failed March rebellion.

Last month, a PKK guerrilla commander expressed the group's displeasure with what he described a U.S. plot to stifle Kurdish independence.

The Turkish official in Diyarbakir, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he did not know why the PKK has not officially

claimed responsibility for the abduction. The PKK did so when it kidnapped 10 German tourists a month ago. The Germans were released unharmed eight days later.

The release of the Germans has kept hopes up for the eventual safe return of the five new hostages.

An American embassy official in Ankara said there had been no attempt by the PKK to contact U.S. officials regarding the missing Westerners.

Meanwhile, as the search continued, there was a reported incursion in rebel ambushes.

On Monday night, two non-commissioned officers were killed in a guerrilla ambush, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Tuesday.

Also Monday, in adjoining Mus province, the guerrillas de-

railed an express train and ambushed troops arriving on the scene, the news agency said.

A soldier, a policeman and a mechanist were injured.

Turkish authorities in Diyarbakir announced Tuesday that another rebel had been killed in Suri province.

The missing Westerners have been identified as Americans Ronald Wyatt, Marvin Wilson and Richard M. Rives, Briton Gareth Thomas, and Australian Allen Roberts.

The PKK has been fighting since 1984 for an independent Marxist state in southeastern Turkey, home to about half of the country's 12-million-strong Kurdish minority. Over 3,000 rebels, soldiers and civilians have died in the fighting.

S. Arabia sends captured Iraqi tanks to Pakistan

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia sent four shipments of Iraqi tanks captured in the Gulf war to Pakistan but they are badly damaged and "heaps of junk," shipping sources said Wednesday.

The sources, who asked not to be named, said freighters began collecting mangled Soviet-made T-55 and T-62 tanks, all captured in Kuwait, in the Saudi port of Damman two months ago.

The fourth shipment arrived in Karachi on Aug. 27 and there was a possibility of more being delivered, they said.

But they said it was hard to imagine what Pakistan, which looks to Saudi Arabia as its main source of aid, would do with the mangled equipment.

"We understand there have been four shipments of mainly T-55 and T-62 tanks, but as far as we're concerned they are just a heap of junk — scrap metal," one source said.

"Some of them were without their guns, some had no turrets or tracks and none was mobile," he added. "But they (the Pakistanis) may be able to cannibalise some of them. It's our understanding they were all captured in Kuwait," he added.

A Pakistani Defence Ministry spokesman denied any tanks had arrived but dock workers in Karachi said they had seen them unloaded day and night behind tarpaulin screens. They were moved from the port area at night.

"Yes, we have seen big tanks with long barrels," one dock worker said.

In Rotterdam, shipping manager Koen Schipkevaart confirmed the 7,168-tonne Dutch-registered freighter Fairlift carried a cargo of tanks to Karachi a few days ago but would not say how many, or what type.

A Kalm official said: "The only thing I can say is that it brought a number of tanks to Karachi from

Child murder case dovetails with spread of child abuse in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — The battered corpse of an 11-year-old boy found by a haystack is stirring a broad debate about how Israel, and its kibbutz collective farms in particular, deals with child abuse.

Children's rights advocates said Tuesday the case is alarming because it dovetails with increasing reports of child beatings, which they estimate at about 30,000 a year.

Hanita Zimrin, chairwoman of the Israeli Children's Defence League, said Zohar Paz's tragedy also pointed up a tendency by close-knit groups in Israel to cover up family violence.

At kibbutz Shoval in southern Israel, where Zohar Paz lived, officials insisted they concealed nothing from the authorities. They also denied allegations that the boy was known to be battered at home before the slaying.

Police said that Zohar, whose body was found Sunday morning with "signs of violence," was clearly beaten to death.

They have arrested the 53-year-old boyfriend of Zohar's kibbutz mother and his 17-year-old son, southern district spokesman Shalom Ben-Hemo said. The man and his son live in the nearby city of Beersheba.

Mr. Ben-Hemo said that Zohar, who suffered from epilepsy and impaired motor development, was found in a tub inside a shack about 11 hours after kibbutz officials reported him missing.

The boy apparently left his home sometime Saturday afternoon, Mr. Ben-Hemo said.

A photograph of wide-eyed,

dark-haired Zohar stared out of every Israeli newspaper Tuesday and legislators and children's rights advocates questioned whether laws about child abuse were being enforced.

A far-reaching law requires Israel to report any suspicion of child abuse. Offenders can be jailed for three months — six months in the case of social workers. Mrs. Zimrin said.

But she knew of no case where offenders were punished.

Legislators demanded a probe into why police never received complaints that Paz was being battered.

Kibbutz officials were defensive. The case, believed the first of its kind on a collective farm, defies the pristine image of the kibbutz as a sanctuary of communal ideal.

"This is a most unusual case. By our whole approach, child abuse just goes against the grain. But I guess exceptions can happen anywhere," said Shlomo Raver, a senior kibbutz movement official. About three per cent of Israel's 4.7 million people live on kibbutz.

Mr. Shoval's secretary, Gadi Roman, denied Paz was a battered child, saying he based this on the accounts of teachers and social workers who handled the boy.

Mr. Romeo said the boy's mother underwent a strain after his father died in an auto accident seven years ago. He said social workers from outside the kibbutz were informed of the family's problems and were dealing with it.

Troubles of Sudanese rebel leader said far from over

By Haniza Hendawi
Reuter

NICOSIA — The failure of last week's mutiny against Sudanese rebel chief John Garang left the U.S.-educated Dinka tribesmen unscathed and firmly in control but, diplomats and Sudan experts said, his troubles are far from over.

They said his tolerance of alleged atrocities against civilians by the mostly Dinka men of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) was fomenting dissent against the ex-army colonel from non-Dinka commanders.

The complex tribal makeup of the 40,000-strong force, fighting government troops in south Sudan since 1983, and secessionist sentiments within the SPLA were other issues he must handle delicately to stay at the helm.

"They enslave civilians,

they recruit children to fight, rape, torch villages and summarily execute captured soldiers," said one expert who closely watches human rights in Sudan.

Their actions are directed almost exclusively at non-Dinkas," he added. "The army's record is not any better."

Colonel Garang was the target of the mutiny by three top commanders — Riek Machar Teny-Dharmo, Lam Akol and Gordoo Koang Chol — who sharply criticised his policies and leadership style.

The SPLA said Col. Garang was chairing a meeting of the SPLA leadership at the rebel-held southern town of Kapoeta when the mutiny happened. The town, according to diplomats, came under government aerial bombing following the SPLA statement.

Details of the mutiny have been scanty, but a statement attributed to its instigators

spoke of the need for the south to secede.

"There is a faction in Khartoum which wants the south to go so it can do whatever it likes with the north," Mr. Town, a former information minister, said from his exile home in Cairo.

The diplomats and experts said the mutiny has lent credence to the popular theory that the longer the civil war continued — it is now in its ninth year — the more the secession of the south became a viable solution.

About 500,000 people have died and about three million have been turned into refugees as a result of the conflict.

Most of the dead are civilian southerners who succumbed to hunger and disease. The war has also crippled the economy and stirred dormant ethnic and religious

rifts.

"Garang cannot go on saying he wants to liberate the whole of Sudan for much longer," said another Sudan expert.

"The longer the war goes on, the more convincing the views of the secessionists in the SPLA will be," he said, noting that there was no likelihood of a peaceful settlement to a war that costs Khartoum \$1 million every day.

Proposed peace talks between the SPLA and Khartoum's ruling junta, the diplomats and experts said, were unlikely to produce results due to the large gap in the positions of the two sides.

No date has been set for the Nigerian-sponsored talks.

The SPLA says it wants to create a new and a secular Sudan and not, as Anya-Nya rebels wanted during the 1955-72 bush war they waged

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Despite the rebels' guerrilla warfare superiority — mobility, knowledge of the terrain and popular support — the prospect of SPLA forces marching into the heart of the north of Sudan is far-fetched, the diplomats and experts said.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (centre) discusses role of preachers in a meeting at the King Abdullah Mosque. The Crown Prince urged that

seminars be held promoting solidarity among Jordanians. (Petra photo)

Crown Prince Hassan calls for objective sermons from preachers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday called on mosque preachers and Muslim ulema to be objective in their preaching and to provide worshippers with constructive ideas and correct information.

"We live in a modern age in which we can easily obtain information which can be relayed to the public in facts and figures," said the Regent at a meeting held at the King Abdullah Mosque and attended by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Rafi Jumah and other ministry officials.

The Regent urged the officials to hold seminars that "can open the hearts and minds" and promote the concept of solidarity among members of the Jordanian community.

The Regent urged preachers and scholars to encourage constructive dialogue and said he was pained to hear preachers sometimes expressing migration.

He said: "I did not come to address you on religion because it is not my field of specialisation,"

Mr. Nijem addressed the meeting outlining the various activities of his ministry with particular attention to plans to develop Islamic schools. The minister said that the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs had prepared a television programme about the Holy City of Jerusalem to be presented in October.

The 20-part television programme features the city's religious, architectural, legal and other aspects. It also highlights Israel's illegal practices.

The minister said that the ministry had funds that need to be drawn on contributions from the Gulf states, but that the process has now come to an end with the suspension of aid from the Gulf.

He added, the zakat (alms to the poor) fund continues to operate and offer help to the needy. Mr. Nijem said that the Minis-

Jordanian, Egyptian officials discuss trade ties

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb Wednesday met with Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Yusuf Mustafa.

Mr. Abul Ragheb, who is representing Jordan at the meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council held in Cairo, discussed with Dr. Mustafa ways of enhancing trade relations between Jordan and Egypt. The two agreed to hold a bilateral meeting to discuss ways of increasing trade exchanges between the two countries.

Mr. Abul Ragheb also met with Egyptian Minister of Foreign Cooperation Moris Makramah and reviewed with him issues related to the Jordanian-Egyptian Investment and Development Company.

Mr. Abul Ragheb and Dr. Makramah agreed to hold a meeting for the general council of the company Thursday.

The meetings of the Arab Economic and Social Council started in Cairo Wednesday with the participation of Arab ministers of finance and economy.

Secretary General of the Arab League Esmat Abdul Meguid delivered an opening address in which he called for efforts to bring the meetings to a successful end and to implement the resolutions that it will adopt. Dr. Meguid stressed the importance of Arab economic integration and called on participants in the meeting to discuss the issue of investment in the Arab World.

He said that one of the most important challenges facing the Arab Nation in the current decade is the problem of water shortages, which requires full coordination at the highest levels among Arab countries.

Returnees add 200,000 people to list of unemployed, minister says

AMMAN (Petra) — The latest wave of immigration into Jordan represented by the return of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates from Kuwait will further swell the Kingdom's already burgeoning unemployment ranks, according to Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Daghmi.

The return of the expatriates has severely exacerbated the unemployment problem, which is the main concern of the government, the minister said in an address at a graduation ceremony of a new batch of 700 trainees from Vocational Training Centres.

Mr. Daghmi, who deputised for Prime Minister Taher Masri at the graduation ceremony, said that as of the coming week the government will study a working paper submitted by the Labour Ministry on means of handling the unemployment problem through a national project that entails providing training at vocational centres and through granting loans to heads of families seeking jobs.

The working paper deals primarily with the unemployed graduates of universities and community colleges, 5200 of whom are now seeking jobs, the minister said. He said the other job seekers, those with less education, can easily be absorbed by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), which now has 20,000 available jobs.

Training is given by the VTC centres for all returnees and local residents to make them eligible for jobs now taken by non-Jordanian workers, the labour minister said. Mr. Daghmi thank-



Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Daghmi (left) congratulates a Vocational Training Centre graduate. (Petra photo)

ed various private organisations and industries for their cooperation with the VTC in providing training to the young men and women.

Unemployment, the minister said, is a very serious problem that calls for close cooperation between the private and public sectors for solutions. For its part, the government has established the Employment and Development Fund (EDF), to offer loans to heads of families starting a small business and income-generating projects.

The government has been trying to find jobs for the job seekers in other Arab countries. The minister added that the Civil Service Commission (CSC) now has 52,000 applications, mostly from university graduates who are not qualified to enter the labour market but can get qualification through the training programmes.

VTC Director General Ahmad Atwan called on university and community college graduates to join the training course to ensure employment for themselves. The government is determined to eliminate poverty by providing training to youth who could start a business or do skilled work in the various trades, Dr. Atwan said.

Minister Daghmi announced that he has ordered the immediate departure of non-Jordanians working for community colleges, particularly those colleges which have failed to cooperate with the Ministry of Labour in organising the employment of non-Jordanians.

The minister made the announcement at a meeting with representatives of community colleges to whom he said that the government was determined to reorganise the Jordanian labour market and end the unemployment problem. As part of that effort, the minister said community colleges should employ Jordanians only.

The minister said he has instructed inspection teams from his ministry to intensify campaigns to various areas, including community colleges, to ensure that they abide by government regulations.

Petra Bank 'totally disregarded' regulations, witness testifies

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Intriguing details of the personal banking of former Petra Bank Chairman and General Manager Ahmad Chalabi and some of his family members and the speculation in foreign markets through Petra Bank were some of the highlights of testimony given in court by a banking expert on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Maher Waked, winding up a presentation of his investigation into Petra Bank affairs, told the court how he had come across "baffling" banking operations which incurred losses for Petra Bank as an institution but benefited Dr. Chalabi and some of his family members who maintained bank accounts outside Jordan.

Dr. Waked, executive director of the Bank of Jordan, who specifically referred to 28 cases involving what he described as "total disregard for Jordanian banking regulations and practices," also presented examples of "window-dressing" in the balance sheets of Petra Bank to satisfy local authorities.

According to Dr. Waked, the credit card operations introduced in Jordan by Petra Bank in conjunction with Visa Card International also served as a "front for the clandestine activities" conducted by the Chalabi management.

He said most of the dealings made by the Chalabi management "risked public funds" and testified to his finding of "many cases of bribery and incentives offered locally to solicit deposits when the financial situation of Petra Bank in Jordan started deteriorating."

The witness, the third to appear in the Military Court trying the Petra Bank cases, testified that the Chalabi management of Petra Bank used a London-based firm calling itself SCF Corporation for most of its speculation in precious metals and commodities.

The Chalabi management "actively encouraged Jordanians to speculate in the foreign markets and channelled such activities through Petra Bank Amman; Petra Banking Corporation Washington, D.C.; and SCF Corporation," Dr. Waked said.

Jordanian regulations prohibit Jordanians and Jordanian institutions from engaging in such speculation.

Officials have said that one entire floor at the main office of Petra Bank in Amman was devoted exclusively to cater to speculation, which also extended to cover the Jordanian dinar.

Dr. Waked estimated that a minimum of \$136 million of Petra Bank "losses" were the result of "gross mismanagement specifically aimed at personal benefits for Dr. Chalabi and members of the Chalabi family and violations of Jordanian regulations."

"The actual amount of losses could be somewhere between \$150 million and \$160 million," he said. Dr. Waked named Dr. Chalabi, Hazem Chalabi, Talal Chalabi, Mohammad Chalabi, Dr. Chalabi's nephew Jaafar Agha and former Petra Bank chief dealer Ali Sarraf as the main people responsible.

Officials had earlier said that Petra Bank management was essentially a "one-man-show" run by the Iraqi-born Chalabi despite being a public shareholding company.

The Chalabi management had adopted a "systematic method of siphoning off Jordanian funds abroad" in violation of Jordanian foreign exchange controls through a "maze of operations" very difficult to track, Dr. Waked said.

Dr. Waked concluded his testimony in court Wednesday.

He faces cross examination by at least 10 lawyers representing some of the defendants when the court resumes its sessions Saturday.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Senate approves laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament approved Wednesday the amended law of the state security court and the fiscal budget appendix draft law as they were referred to it by the Lower House. The House, which met under the chairmanship of its Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, in the presence of Prime Minister Taher Masri, recommended that subsidised fuel and food prices benefit citizens with limited income and called for activating the role of the Development and Employment Fund and for exerting more efforts in fighting unemployment. The House later held a closed session with Mr. Masri in which the House members were briefed on the latest developments in the local, Arab and international arenas.

Minister inspects Mafraq schools

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Education Minister Eid Dahiyyat Tuesday made an inspection tour of Mafraq Governorate schools and opened a new secondary school in Balama. The school, which includes 22 classrooms, laboratories, and a sewing centre, cost JD 247,000. The minister met with educational leaders in the governorate and had a discussion on the best means to improve the educational situation in the governorate.

Dutch envoy ends tour of duty

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour Wednesday received the ambassador of the Netherlands to Jordan to bid him farewell on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty. Dr. Ensour lauded the ambassador's services in enhancing relations between Jordan and the Netherlands while serving as his country's non-resident ambassador and presented him with a token gift.

Hospital to be built in Deir Abi Saeed

DEIR ABI SAED (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture approved leasing 25 dunums of forest lands in Deir Abi Saeed area to Deir Abi Saeed Hospital which will be built in the town by the end of this year. Director of the Health Department in Al Koura district Jamal Al Sharman said the Ministry of Public Works and Housing is now in charge of the hospital project after reaching an agreement with the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Public Works is expected to conduct needed studies to invite tenders for constructing the hospital which will accommodate 50 beds. The Ministry of Health has previously allocated JD 1,700,000 for constructing the hospital.

Symposium to deal with ways of increasing food production

AMMAN (Petra) — The faculty of agriculture at the University of Jordan and Baghdad University have prepared for a five-day symposium on the utilisation of modern technology to increase the production of lean meat and participants from Arab and foreign countries are expected to take part in the discussions.

A statement from the University of Jordan Wednesday said that the symposium, which will be held at the University of Jordan beginning Saturday, is expected to review working papers and witness discussions on the subject of modern technology in the service of food production.

A spokesman for the preparatory committee said that the participants from Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Yemen, Sudan,

met a plan highlighting the Kingdom's many historic sites

order to ensure the programme's success.

Last March, Mr. Atallah estimated Jordan's losses in tourism during the Gulf crisis, tourism in Aqaba was reduced to zero as tourist groups from Scandinavia and other European countries cancelled reservations.

order to ensure the programme's success.

Representatives of the tourist and press sectors will be involved in the workshops, coupled with intensive campaigns in newspapers, magazines and other media, in

order to ensure the programme's success.

He said that the weekly flights of 180 tourists could be increased to two depending on the volume of tourists in the coming winter season.

Referring to the new campaign planned by the Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Atallah said that the ministry has made plans for work-

shops to start soon in order to give impetus to the campaign. Representatives of the tourist and press sectors will be involved in the workshops, coupled with intensive campaigns in newspapers, magazines and other media, in

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Abu Rabb at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Salam Jamil Al Naseri at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of native painting, from Germany at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery.

CONCERT

- ★ Concert by Al Jedd Al Jadid folk troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

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Freedom with harmony

THE DRAFT LAW on press and publication is reaching its final stage in preparation for its final adoption. The Lower House of Parliament has just referred the new law to its Legal Committee to scrutinise its legal formulation. This is the time therefore for the public to express its opinions on it before it is too late.

At the outset, the new body of legislation is a major departure from the 1973 law and is articulated with the new spirit of democracy and parliamentary political life very much in mind. Article 3 incorporates this new sense of freedom and democracy when it stipulates in no uncertain terms that journalism and publication shall be free and freedom of expression shall be guaranteed. This article therefore constitutes the springboard from which all the subsequent provisions of the new legislation have been formulated.

Yet not everything in the new law is clear enough or in conformity with the cardinal principle about freedom of thought and expression. In fact, in some areas in the law there are contradictions. Take for example Article 6 which bestows on journalism the responsibility to enlighten the public on facts, orientations, thoughts and informations on the local, Arab and international levels. Article 9, however, appears to restrict such a broad mission by prescribing the publication of any material that is in conflict with the principles of freedom or national responsibility or human rights, or the respect for truth and the principles and ideals of the Arab and Islamic nations without indicating who will be the judge of these criteria.

One can easily visualise a conflict between these two formulations since new thoughts and perspectives, whether local or regional or international, may not always be in harmony with the sweeping restrictions as outlined in Article 9. From the international perspective as mentioned for example in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which Jordan had signed and ratified, there can be no distinction made between the three monotheistic religions, especially when there is a provision for the protection of religious values. Article 42 purports to remedy this omission when it stipulates that defaming or libelling any religion or sect protected by the Constitution is prohibited. There is obviously a need to harmonise Article 9 with Article 42 on the one hand and the two articles with the provisions of the ICCPR, namely Articles 2, 18, 19, 20, 26, and 27. As much as the U.N. Human Rights Committee keeps on reminding us about Jordan's treaty obligations under that covenant, there is still little or no awareness of these obligations by Jordanian lawmakers.

Another major problem with the new law is the lack of sufficient coherence in its various provisions. Such vagueness in the law's legal formulations plays into the hands of the public prosecutor who has been accorded the responsibility of criminally prosecuting any violation of the law. As is, the guidelines of the new legislation will continue to be subject to many interpretations. Unless and until there is sufficient case law on the new legislation, journalism and publications would continue to be under the mercy of the government.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Wednesday expressed serious doubts about the prospects of a speedy solution to the Middle East question and said that the United States has other priorities at hand. Washington's involvement in stirring trouble for the Europeans in Yugoslavia and its conspiracies, together with the Western Europeans, against the Soviet Union following the earlier conspiracies on Iraq are keeping the U.S. administration away from the Middle East, the paper noted. It said that the projected visit to the region by the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker might not achieve anything in view of the events in other areas of the globe. In view of the situation, the United States and Israel might choose to keep the state of affairs in the Middle East and continue their joint efforts to weaken the Arab World, the paper said. Indeed, the U.S. is busy with plots and plans to dismember the Soviet Union and prevent the 1992 European unity so that it would maintain its hegemony over the world, the paper continued. At the same time, it said, the U.S. maintaining its embargo on Iraq depriving the innocent civilians of their basic food and medicine and the means to exist with the help of a number of Arab regimes in the pay of the Washington master. The paper expressed belief that such a state of affairs can be only continue for ever, and the time would come when the Arab masses would embark on the process of liberating themselves from their treacherous regimes and from the U.S. — Western hegemony for ever.

A columnist in Al Dastour demanded that the Arab masses in countries that are being visited by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker be informed of the outcome of his talks with the government officials so that a solid stand at the national level be taken. Mazen Al Seiket said that each time Mr. Baker visits the Arab countries no details about his talks with officials are offered to the public except vague promises that Washington would commit itself to the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. The writer said that Parliament members, all government ministers and the members of the public have the right to know the facts and what is being agreed on with regard to the coming peace conference. While Washington claims that it is keen on implementing Security Council resolutions, it continues to supply Israel with weapons and economic aid in addition to millions of dollars to settle the Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab lands, the writer noted. He said that Washington could only act from its stand in the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliances while dealing with the Middle East question and therefore there is no question about the fact that the U.S. administration is taking Israel's side in the ongoing mediation efforts to reach a compromise and start the peace conference. Therefore, he said, one can only wonder about the nature of the coming peace conference between the Arabs and Israel and can only feel apprehensive about the outcome of such a parley.

WHEN the people first elected their representatives to Parliament in November 1989, they naturally assumed they were picking new leaders who would tackle and overcome the difficult problems of our time. After all, the electorate had taken special care to heap their votes on candidates who stood for change and promised to make a difference and turned away from candidates who possessed little more than an oversized ego and a talent for mingling well. As things turned out, however, it has been a lot easier to bring the horse to water than to make it drink.

The mettle of the new legislature was tested early. Only weeks after the people roundly rejected the traditional political elite, voting into Parliament scores of hitherto obscure politicians, a highly traditional Cabinet presented itself to the legislative assembly for a vote of confidence. Three long days of political posturing, verbal abuse, and petty squawking passed before the assembly finally, and meekly, handed the government a landslide victory. Yet the same Parliament almost brought down the modern looking and youthful Cabinet of Taher Masri, himself a member of Parliament, without so much as bothering to sound convincing.

What could have possibly induced the Parliament to shower support upon a group of discredited veteran politicians shortly

after virulently castigating them on past performance? Even less credible is the Parliament's vehement and inexplicable opposition to a Cabinet composed mainly of high-minded men who were hoisted to public life by voting constituencies; a Cabinet chosen from Parliament's own ranks. One possible explanation is that Parliament suffers collectively from a self-deprecating and low opinion of itself: a syndrome captured most aptly by Groucho Marx's famous assertion that he would not join any club that found it fit to admit him.

Self-confidence is not the only quality of leadership that has gone missing. Others include self-denial, vision, courage, and perseverance.

Since the last election, scores of congressmen were haphazardly rotated in and out of Cabinet posts in an obvious attempt to appear as many parliamentarians as possible. The sense of legislators lining up eagerly to be ushered into the next Cabinet reshuffle like children outside a playground has deeply disturbed the people as they realised that their elected representatives were more interested in the trappings of power than in the integrity of the system.

Clearly, the lack of government policies has made it possible for a prime minister to invite legislators of all political persuasions to join the Cabinet and coexist inharmoniously on an aimless

journey. When the cook has no recipe, he tends to get sloppy with the ingredients.

So much for self-delusion. As for vision and courage, they were most noticeably absent during the Gulf crisis. Instead of holding a lit candle for the people as they struggled with currents of conflicting emotions and groped for a clear comprehension of cause and consequence, the Parliament merely chose to reflect the lowest impulse of the street: demagoguery.

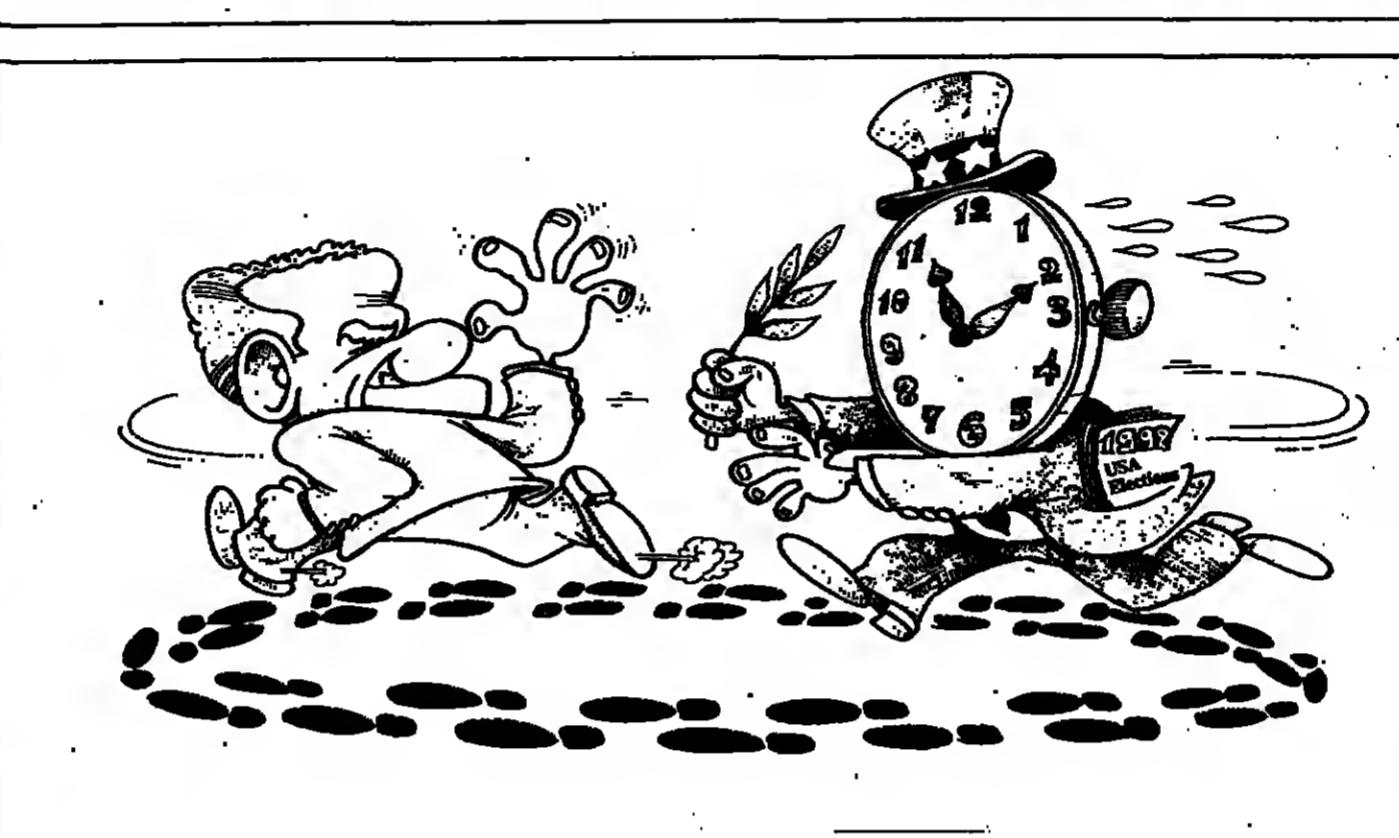
Finally, one has only to note the meagre output of the Parliament in terms of legislations actually deliberated and promulgated into laws or the shabby attendance habits of many legislators as indicative of a generally slothful attitude.

But the real potential danger of the Parliament's inadequacies lies in the possibility that the constant posturing, insufferable pretensions, and sheer noise distortions of the Parliament might obstruct or otherwise hamper the true leadership of Jordan, the Hashemite monarchy in fulfilling its own special role.

A true leader will never shirk his responsibilities. But in deference to democracy and the presumed will of the people, these responsibilities have always been shared. It is a shame, however, if the responsibility for the nation's welfare is to be shared with leaders who refuse to lead. To them, it must be said: Lead, follow, or get out of the way.

When leaders refuse to lead

By Sawsan Estaineh



M. KAHIL

N. Korea to survive Soviet shocks with tight controls at home

By Seigo Sakamoto
Reuter

TOKYO — Stalinist North Korea, reeling from the sudden collapse of Soviet communist power, will tighten strict ideological control at home while seeking ways to ease its growing diplomatic isolation, analysts predict.

Pyongyang-watchers in Tokyo and Seoul said they foresaw a massive domestic propaganda effort to counter the effects of the rapid changes in the birthplace of world communism.

On the international stage, North Korea — after a period of taking stock — could be expected to redouble its efforts to forge new friendships, with Japan first of all, and with other non-communist Asian nations, Japanese analysts said.

Its priorities would be withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea so as to focus, with international help, on rebuilding its crippled economy, said Teruo Komaki of Tokyo's Institute of Developing Economies.

What seemed certain in the chaotic aftermath of last week's abortive hardline coup that weakened president Mikhail Gorbachev, was that the Moscow-Pyongyang alliance would never be the same — whoever holds real power in the Soviet capital.

Mali, Congo, Liberia and Sao Tome have started a trend which diplomats predict will catch on as more veteran presidents are forced from office.

There could be an avalanche effect as former opponents take power and see the state of public finances they have inherited, a European diplomat who follows several West African countries commented.

The relationship has been sliding since the late 1980s when Mr. Gorbachev policies brought glasnost, or openness, to Soviet life, and freedom to East Europe's subject peoples.

It was Moscow's contacts with South Korea that really had North Korean "great leader" Kim Il-Sung.

The Koreans have been arch-enemies since the peninsula's division at the end of World War II. In the 1950-53 Korean War, Moscow sent the north massive aid, which has continued.

Mr. Gorbachev, after years of growing trade links, opened diplomatic ties with Seoul in September, 1990.

Nevertheless, he kept up economic aid all-important military assistance to isolated hardline Pyongyang.

Pyongyang-watchers said ties could deteriorate radically if Russian reformist leader Boris Yeltsin or his allies took overall control of Soviet policy.

Such a development would face Pyongyang with three major concerns, assistant Professor Hajime Izumi of Shizuoka Prefectural University said.

"One concern is that Moscow under reformist leadership might slash its vital economic and military assistance.

"The second is that new Soviet leaders might bring greater, more overt pressure upon North Korea

than did Mr. Gorbachev to become more democratic," Mr. Izumi said.

A third was, in response to tumultuous Soviet moves toward democracy, dissidents might surface in North Korea to shake the foundations of its tightly controlled society.

Mr. Izumi said he did not believe North Korea was already troubled with dissidents despite a Radio Pyongyang broadcast this week calling on people to defend the country from what it called manoeuvres by enemies at home and abroad.

Rather, this indicated the leadership intended to prevent dissenters from emerging, he said.

Pyongyang's official media have in recent years been at pains to describe its socialism as Korean-style to distinguish it from the Soviet communist model, analysts said.

"North Korea is stepping up its ideological education to rearm its people with orthodox socialism," Kim Chang-Soo, head of the Institute of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said.

"The northern rulers might try to reorganise their party by purging anti-party elements and reformers. They will desperately try to top the winds of freedom blowing."

Already, since the wave of democratisation swept Eastern Europe in 1989, North Korea has

tightened ideological control. "The North Koreans must be watching Soviet developments now with great wariness and anxiety," Mr. Izumi said.

"I don't think North Korea is in such a difficult situation that it has to make hasty changes," he said.

No sudden change to international policy was likely.

"Ties between Pyongyang and Moscow from now on will become more pragmatic," said Masao Okonogi of Keio University.

"If the Russian Federation gains power ... the alliance will become one in name only, no longer a reality."

"North Korea will have to increase dependence on China, a major socialist ally ... (but) relations with Japan are the most important," Mr. Okonogi said.

To achieve this the north would eventually have to agree to outside inspection of its secret nuclear plants and to engage in serious dialogue with the south, he said.

However, "as long as Kim Il-Sung is in good health, North Korea as a socialist nation can survive the fall of other communist governments," he said.

"The events in Eastern Europe could not easily occur in Asia ... the cultural traditions here are rather convenient for totalitarian rule."

Western companies who pay off bribes are just as guilty," said a economist with the African Development Bank.

He feared that even if non-African leaders want to unearthen the truth they will face resistance from all sides. Foreign governments who looked the other way when their companies paid bribes to obtain huge contracts are unlikely to lead the clean-up, he said.

Two former dignitaries, including a brother of figure-head President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, are in custody over corruption allegations. Justice Minister Martin Bemba went to France in August to start the process of repatriating assets abroad, a spokesman said.

But as old-style African presidents have often replied when challenged about the alleged venality of their regimes: "It takes two to tango."

The presidents have to be incriminated, of course. But the

Bush faces full agenda as he girds for 1992 election

By Gene Gibbons
Reuter

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine — After a 28-day summer holiday that involved as much work as play, President George Bush went back to Washington on Tuesday to tackle an array of domestic problems and redesign his foreign policy to reflect the break-up of the Soviet empire.

"What is it about August?" Mr. Bush grumbled after a bumbling power grab by Kremlin hardliners triggered an anti-communist revolution in the Soviet Union two weeks ago, ruining his plan to spend almost a month fishing, boating and playing golf.

It was the second straight year that the president was forced to devote part of his holiday to crisis management. His deft response to the Soviet turmoil, coming atop his successful leadership in the Gulf war, strengthened his image as an international statesman and left him in a commanding position going into the 1992

national legislature — will take on greater and greater political colouring as the tempo of the 1992 campaign picks up.

At the same time, the Republican president will be scrambling to adjust U.S. foreign policy in light of the radically changed Soviet political landscape.

Many issues lie just ahead, including one with personal ramifications for Mr. Bush, who admires and respects Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev — but has to juggle between Mr. Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Administration policymakers make no secret of the fact that they would prefer to deal with Mr. Gorbachev, but they must make the fated coup left Mr. Yeltsin, a charismatic, popularly elected leader who mobilised resistance to the right-wing power grab, the real power in Moscow.

Mr. Gorbachev "has lost a lot of his power base and a lot of power has shifted to President Yeltsin," national security adviser Brent Scowcroft said in television interview on Saturday.

Mr. Scowcroft said the Soviet leader's long-term ability to survive politically "still has to be demonstrated."

As he juggles domestic and foreign policy issues, Mr. Bush will frequently be on the move. Much of his travel, he appears to be looking ahead to November 1992 and moving to strengthen his political flank.

Before heading back to Washington, he visited Lewiston, Maine, to deliver a report to the country on his efforts to improve U.S. education.

Later this month, Mr. Bush will travel to the American west to attend a hotbed of environmental activists.

Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton and Iowa Senator Tom Harkin are waiting in the wings, but some more prominent Democrats are declining to run.

A big labour rally in Washington on Saturday and a protest here on Sunday by militant AIDS activists were reminders, however, that there is dissatisfaction with Mr. Bush's leadership, particularly on domestic issues.

Battles loom between the White House and Congress over civil rights, health care, education and protection for workers who go on strike.

Mr. Bush's words and actions — and those of his Democratic opponents who control the

U.S. presidential campaign.

Mr. Bush, who says the only thing that would keep him from seeking a second four-year term next year is an unexpected health problem, enjoyed a 67 per cent approval rating in a Washington Post/ABC news poll last week.

That was down from his stratospheric 90 per cent popularity rating after the rout of Iraq last February, but still impressive enough to keep a lot of potential challengers on the sidelines.

At this stage of the 1992 election campaign, the Democrats have only one announced candidate for their party's presidential nomination: Paul Tsongas, a little-known former Massachusetts senator.

Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton and Iowa Senator Tom Harkin are waiting in the wings, but some more prominent Democrats are declining to run.

A big labour rally in Washington on Saturday and a protest here on Sunday by militant AIDS activists were reminders, however, that there is dissatisfaction with Mr. Bush's leadership, particularly on domestic issues.

Battles loom between the

Business booming for taxis but passengers getting frustrated

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Business is booming for the taxi industry in Amman, with drivers reporting a two-fold increase of take-home earnings in six months. Good news indeed for thousands of families, but the rising transportation needs of Amman's population leaves many potential passengers waiting endlessly in many areas of the capital peering the horizon for the yellow vehicles.

The question that is raised by many is whether Amman, already facing unprecedented traffic jams and bottlenecks, will be wise to license more taxis to cope with the situation, which, many experts argue, could be only temporary.

Seasonal or not, almost everyone who uses a taxi at least once a day agrees that there is a dearth of cabs whenever there is a need. Taxi drivers agree and say that they hardly move 50 metres without a paying passenger aboard these days while they used to face hours of fruitless cruising in search of a fare only six months back.

There are about 5,000 private taxis operated by 200

offices to cater to the needs of the population of Amman. By all standards, the number is sufficient, and, in practical terms, it should not take more than a few minutes for anyone to get a taxi, experts say.

But the reality today is something else and it has a lot to do with the Gulf crisis, which led to a dramatic increase in Amman's population in the form of expatriates who were forced to leave Kuwait and other Gulf states.

Iraqi visitors, vacationing expatriates and tourists in town, and this has created the high demand," he said.

"The demand will decline and stabilise soon, when the tourist season ebb and vacationing expatriates return to their countries of work," he said.

"In the meantime, we can do without more vehicles on the roads, which are already clogged on an unprecedented level," he said.

Officials noted that higher number of traffic policemen were assigned to Amman streets these days in a bid to ease the traffic congestion, mostly attributed to the dramatic rise in the number of vehicles brought in by returning expatriates as well as Iraqis visiting Jordan.

They also pointed out that

there were assigned stations for taxis in various areas of Amman and that sharing taxis were permitted from these points. But, many users say, they cannot find taxis at such points when they need them and sometimes they are left to the mercy of drivers who might demand higher fares.

Mohammad Hamlan of Amman Taxi — which maintains four offices with a total of 100 cars in and around the capital — said most of his vehicles were engaged on a daily basis to trips to the Dead Sea, Madaba, Jerash and other tourist attractions.

"This is the case with many other taxi offices in Amman," Mr. Hamlan said, "and that is why there is a marked decrease in the number of taxis plying Amman streets."

According to Mr. Hamlan, one way to ease the situation is to allow an increased number of temporarily licensed mini-buses to add to the number of service taxis on fixed routes.

"This should take care of the seasonal demand without having to register new taxis," he said.

Registering new taxis, said

another taxi operator, would have an adverse effect in that there will be additional takers to the available business during winter. "Earnings go down during winter and any addition to the number of taxis will further cut down on the net take-home earnings of the day," he added, preferring anonymity, saying that he did not want to be seen as "denying anyone to the means to make a livelihood."

The average daily earning of a driver who does not own

the vehicle he drives is between JD 10 and JD 12 these days, compared with JD 7 and JD 9 in January this year, according to assessments made by several taxi offices.

The owner makes between JD 8 and JD 12 depending upon the type of vehicle (larger cars with higher fuel consumption fetch less). An owner-cum-driver is obviously better off despite the relatively high investment.

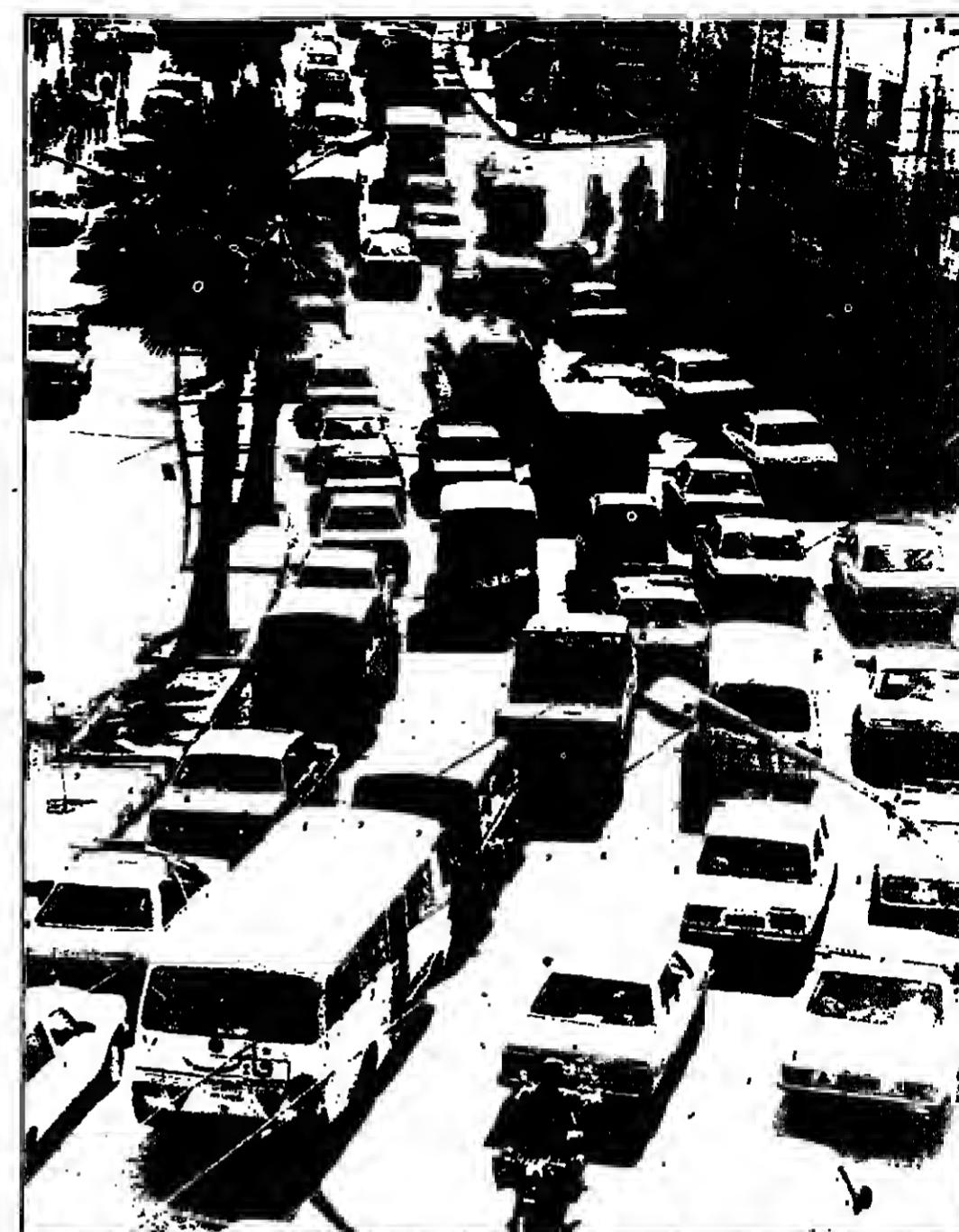
The authorities are not issuing any new licences for taxi offices but transfer the commercial licence of one vehicle to another.

"Our present assessment does not indicate that there is any need for new licences," said a senior official. "If we find the need, then perhaps there could be a change in the policy of not issuing new licences, but it will be on a case-by-case basis," he said.

No licensing of new taxi offices means no licensing for new taxis since every taxi has to be registered with one of the taxi offices, which in turn cannot have more than 25 taxis attached to a single office. Every office has to have at least 10 taxis which it owns while the rest could be owned by others who pay JD 15 every month for using the name of the office.

Every taxi should physically report at the office every three hours and carry a signed slip from the office indicating the last time of reporting. Violators of this rule are fined JD 5.

Awni Mideq, 55, who has been driving in Amman's streets for the past 35 years, estimates the minimum investment in a taxi office these days at JD 100,000. "That is based on an average price of JD 9,500 per car," he said.



Amman is facing unprecedented traffic jams and bottlenecks these days due to a dramatic increase in the capital's population in the

form of expatriates who were forced to leave Kuwait and other Gulf states.

Taxis are rarely seen parked in front of their offices as seen in the photo above since business has seen as unusual boom these days.

The challenges and prospects of Paris fashion

By Claire Thierry

PARIS — "Haute couture is condemned." The verdict fell like a guillotine blade in January 1991, just before the sumptuous ritual of fashion collections. The person who spoke these words should know what he is talking about. It was Pierre Bergé, for nearly thirty years the chairman and managing director of the prestigious Saint-Laurent house of fashion. As if to prove him right, Alain Chevalier, in charge of Balmain, announced that he was giving up couture "in its traditional form," an area which, in his firm, barely clad twenty customers.

The funeral speech started a war in luxury fashion circles. Were they in favour of or against a predicted death? According to pessimists, this activity is so expensive that it no longer has any interest even for its value as publicity to promote the other products of the firm, such as ready-to-wear clothes, accessories and, above all, perfumes.

It is true that the conditions for admission to the highly exclusive and very corporatist Paris Couture Syndical Chamber (with its 22 members and only two new ones among them in the last twenty years) has not changed since before the war: Having to employ 20 people in a company's workshop and, twice a year, to present a collection of at least 75 models, only a third of which would be bought.

At the same time, production costs have exploded, while there is no room for a gain in productivity in this luxury craftsmanship in which much of the work is done by hand. It still takes 150 hours to make the least little dress, an exclusive

woollen fabric costs 2,000 francs a metric and an embroidered silk about 7,000 francs. Presenting a couture collection comes to between 5 and 20 million francs, or even 30 million for Saint-Laurent. Moreover, the latter indicates that he loses an average of 70 million francs on the two yearly collections.

The result is that the prices are sky-high and the drastically falling number of customers is today estimated as being around 3,000. Only a few American, Saudi and, increasingly, Japanese millionaires can afford several of these made-to-measure "very simple, but very couture" suits costing 100,000 francs each or a sumptuous evening dress for 500,000 francs. Many models of evening dress are, moreover, lent, for promotion, to princesses in the jet set, or to cinema or television stars for a gala in Paris or in Monte Carlo.

Times are changing too. Even every wealthy woman prefers to dress in haute couture ready-to-wear clothes today and to shun luxury which appears ostentatious. Another negative point is that the prestigious designers and founders of the big Paris fashion houses have died, such as Mademoiselle Chanel, or are growing old: Cardin and Feraud are over sixty, Ungaro and Saint-Laurent will soon reach that age. They have no successors to take over and does their virtuoso talent not make them irreplaceable, just like any artist? "If Yves Saint-Laurent passes away, I will close down the couture department," Pierre Bergé coldly asserts. "I am not going to go hunting for fashion designers." In his opinion, the future for grands couturiers lies solely in top of the range ready-to-wear clothes.

Some people add that haute couture is a vital necessity for the ready-to-wear fashions. As a permanent laboratory for experimenting, it continuously innovates in cuts, invents textures and launches styles. It is, in fact, the "fundamental research" department without which the clothing industry would not be able to renew itself. It is also a conservancy of such unique know-how that it borders on art by its perfection. It is hardly surprising that Paris honours fashion with two museums, and that a few professionals are thinking of creating a patronage foundation with the aim of supporting the activity of fashion decorators ("parazzi"), who supply the couturiers. The delicate problem of who is to take



Presentation of Yves Saint Laurent's 1991 spring-summer collection

over from the old designers, remains, but some fashion houses have solved this by recruiting the best designers from ready-to-wear. Karl Lagerfeld took over from Coco Chanel. The Italian Gianfranco Ferré has been called to Dior. Claude Montana has taken up the torch at Lanvin, and with success as he received the "D'Or" (Golden Thimble) Award (Golden Thimble) Award this year.

The death of Paris couture, which has been announced thousands of times, is not for the near future. If, one day, it was to disappear, it would rise in a new form, the following day, like a phoenix — L'Actualité En France.

Lush German island

struggles to stay afloat

By Mark Fritz

The Associated Press

RUEGEN, Germany (AP) — With soaring sand dunes, sprawling forests and beautiful bays, the island of Ruegen at first seems as free from care as its swimmers are free from clothing.

But the placid island shares the woes of the rest of the former east Germany, off whose coast it lies. The economy has crashed and east German tourists mostly stayed away this summer.

"There are many, many formidable problems," says Christian Schnitzer, head of the Ruegen County Economics Department. "The challenge is to preserve Ruegen while restoring our economy."

Ruegen, home to 86,000 people, has a languid island pace. About half the swimmers on its beaches don't bother with bathing suits.

Larger than New York City, the 973-square-kilometre island is a three-hour ferry ride over the Baltic Sea from Sweden and Denmark, which supply most of the foreign tourists.

A ferry also runs to Klaipeda in Lithuania, but currently is being used to return Soviet soldiers vacating the country.

"We'd like to use that ferry for perhaps tourists from Poland, but we'll have to wait," says Rolf Buschewski, county tourism chief.

But tourism is second to agriculture on Ruegen, where 65 per cent of the land is arable, Mr. Schnitzer said.

"Tourism is highly seasonal and produces low-quality jobs," he said. "The key is reviving agriculture."

About 5,000 of the 8,000

lectives lost their jobs since last year, Mr. Schnitzer said.

Joblessness overall was 12.5 per cent in June. Another 20 per cent work short hours at lower pay.

Mr. Schnitzer says the economy faces another blow because a large east German naval base is slated to close. The land is being turned into a federal preserve.

Mr. Schnitzer will visit the United States this fall to lure investors. He hopes to develop the processing end of the island's agriculture industry.

If agriculture is reeling, tourism is also down slightly because Ruegen is being avoided by eastern Germans. About 60 per cent of the visitors now are curious western Germans, said Mr. Buschewski.

"With the borders opened, easterners are travelling to places they couldn't visit before," he said.

But others complain they are being priced out of their once heavily subsidised vacationland.

"I can afford it, but I don't see how eastern Germans can," said West Berlin firefighter Ralf Penke, honeymooning with his east German wife.

Ruegen used to be a favourite haunt of Communist Party chief Erich Honecker and his lieutenants. They often stayed at the plush Cliff Hotel, a squat, fortress-like structure that juts from the forest on the southwest coast.

Party leaders also had exclusive use of the pristine little island of Vilm, just off Ruegen's south coast. Vilm is now a wildlife sanctuary.

The Communist Party's successor, the Party for Democratic Socialism, con-

PEN PALS

To the Editor:

We would like to publish our names and addresses in the Jordan Times.

We are Ghanaian students interested in having pen-friends in Jordan.

Our addresses are as follows:

1. Eric Ockley Connashar
P.O. Box 501, Cape Coast, Ghana
Age: 17 years
Sex: Male
Hobbies: Swimming, jogging, writing and music.
 2. Margaret Esi Connashar (Miss)
P.O. Box 501, Cape Coast, Ghana
Age: 22 years
Sex: Female
Hobbies: Music, cycling, hockey, jogging and knitting.
 3. Jemimah Ekua Tyson
P.O. Box 501, Cape Coast, Oguza, Ghana
Age: 28 years
Sex: Female
Hobbies: Lawn tennis, chess, volleyball, cycling and basketball.
- Thanks in advance
- Margaret Connashar

Van Damme kick-boxes his way to the top

By Dana Kennedy
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — "Do you trust me?"

The voice, slightly taunting, belongs to 30-year-old martial arts superstar Jean-Claude Van Damme, about to demonstrate how close he comes to your face with his deadly high kick.

It sounds like a line from double impact, his latest in a string of kick-boxing block-busters. But this time it's no movie.

Van Damme flexes his powerful chest, the result of daily four-hour workouts, and gazes down at his pointy-tipped cowboy boots.

He abandons his stance for a minute and walks over sympathetically.

"I'm pretty good but there's always a chance I hit you," he says in his lilting

Belgian accent, flashing a wide smile.

Then he moves back. His leg comes up so fast the winds blow by your face in a blur. Reflexes don't work.

"He came this close," says his wife, Gladys, holding her thumb and forefinger about a half-inch (centimetre) apart.

Van Damme throws back his head and laughs. It's just another delightful moment in the enchanted life of Van Damme, Hollywood's newest action hero and the latest European emigre to land in America and mop up the competition.

He is charming, without appearing too calculating, and intense, grilling those who interview and photograph him.

"You are a hero, my friend," he tells a photographer, a World War II veteran who Van Damme abandoned his career there to

learn served in his native Belgium.

And to call him a little flirtatious is like saying the Sultan of Brunei has a few dollars in the bank.

"My one weakness is women," he confides in a hotel restaurant, while his third wife eats a plate of pasta nearby.

Van Damme plucks several vitamins from his shirt pocket and slides them furiously across the table.

"They will make you strong sexually," he whispers.

Like Arnold Schwarzenegger, Van Damme arrived in California virtually penniless in 1980. He navigated his way to stardom by a canny combination of brain and brawn.

Though he was a karate star and health club owner in Belgium, Van Damme abandoned his career there to

pursue a lifelong dream of movie acting.

"I don't care about the money. It's only paper to me," says Van Damme, whose films such as *Lionheart*, *Cyborg* and *Deathsport* have grossed millions. "I just want to make good movies."

Like Schwarzenegger, Van Damme speaks with an Evangelical fervour.

"When you have two feet and two hands, anything is possible," he says, mounting a familiar refrain of how a humble immigrant can arrive here with little more than discipline and ambition and easily overtake the soft Americans.

Van Damme says he ran afoul of such men early in his career when he was living out of his car.

"The people who run the studios come from good fami-

lies and have college educations but they know nothing of the street," he says. "They all follow the rules. That's not my way. If I follow rules, I have to wait years to be an actor and I have to develop a Shakespearean accent or something."

To jump-start his career, Van Damme sought out independent filmmakers more like himself — brassy street-wise producers such as Menahem Golan who gave him his first starring role in 1987's *Bloodsport*.

Van Damme said he was forced to sign a contract when he was "starving" to do a series of martial arts films, and he never envisioned that the movies would turn him into an international star.

In *Double Impact*, he plays dual roles as twin brothers and had his first love scene. He also co-wrote and co-

produced the film.

"I found out that 75 per

cent of my fans are women."

Van Damme says, his face lighting up. "So we put in a love scene for them."

But he plans to leave karate behind as soon as possible.

Two of his next three

films will be mainstream

movies, he said. He has one

deal with *Carloco* and

another with superproducer

Jon Peters (*Batman*).

Van Damme wants to

eventually direct and achieve

the rank of the movie stars he

admired as a child in Belgium

— "Real men" like Steve

McQueen, Anthony Quinn

and Marlon Brando.

"To me the biggest joy is to

have a passion and have an

impact on people through

movies," he said.

"I follow nobody," he said.

"There is only one Van Damme."



Jean-Claude Van Damme in a scene from his film *Death Warrant*.

Half Dream — a title that mirrors dancer's life

By Martha Waggoner
The Associated Press

DURHAM, (AP) — Half Dream serves not only as the title for the work choreographed by Jin Xing, but also reflects the 23-year-old dancer-choreographer's life.

Jin came to the United States in 1989 for what was supposed to be a nine-month cultural exchange program.

Tiananmen Square — and his own dreams — interfered.

Jin, who has married an American gymnast, talks of becoming a permanent U.S. resident, though he'd like to return to his homeland one day.

He has spent the summer in Durham as one of four in the international choreographers commissioning programme at the American Dance Festival (ADF). He talks opera lessons and hopes to be a singer, too.

Now Jin is seeing the first major production of one of his dances. *Half Dream* is a modern dance set to 5,000-year-old Chinese music.

The dream needs the audience to be completed, he said, explaining that parts can be a nightmare and it's up to the audience to interpret.

"Just so they can feel something," he said.

Jin likes the combination of old and new, just as he likes the mix of modern dance — a Western art form — with Chinese culture and tradition.

"It's a beautiful mesh," he said.

The mesh was made possible by two people — Charles Reinhart, ADF director, and Yang Meiqi, director of the Guangdong Dance Academy in the Guangdong province, formerly Canton.

When Yang visited the ADF four years ago, she asked Reinhart to help her

build a modern dance programme at the Guangdong Academy, where students previously had concentrated on Russian ballet and Chinese folk dance.

ADF sent teachers with the understanding they would help develop Chinese modern dance, not teach the Western form.

The modern dances performed by the Guangdong dancers in China must be approved by government officials. But Reinhart said modern dance is a difficult art form for censors.

"If there are words, they can understand," he said. "Modern dance is more of a feeling, more of an impression. It's not so direct. The censors don't know what to do with modern dance."

For example, one dance described as a woman in bed contemplating an abortion also has been described as a woman fighting insomnia.

Yang seems to speak freely about modern dance in Chi-

na, but she chooses her words more carefully when asked about Jin. He was one of her students and supposed to return to China to help her teach modern dance.

"I think Jin Xing can choose his own road," she said. "If he wants to come back, he is welcome."

At some points in history, Jin's decision might have stopped the Guangdong dancers from performing in China, much less in the United States.

But David Hochoy, an ADF choreographer who taught in China last fall for 10 weeks, believes that since the Communist Chinese government's brutal crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Peking's Tiananmen Square in June 1989, "the Chinese government is very eager to make a good impression on the outside world."

Reinhart is uncertain why

the Chinese allow the dancers to continue with this Western art form. He doubts the troupe would be allowed to continue in Peking, but Guangdong's proximity to Hong Kong helps the dancers continue, he said. "There is a different point of view," he said.

Yang agreed. "We have more opportunities to have culture and arts exchange with the outside," she said. "So the ideas and thoughts of people are active."

Reinhart said there's no political tension, and he doesn't think about the possibility of dancers defecting.

"I'm not concerned about that. What happens, happens," he said, adding that the Chinese modern dancers "have the same incredible drive that all modern dance pioneers have."

Said Hochoy: "The mere fact they're here is a miracle."

Hank Sasaki — a not so typical country singer

By Joe Edwards
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — He's your typical country singer. He plays guitar, writes songs, sings about cowboys, wears jeans and boots and grew up listening to Hank Williams.

And he has a southern accent — from southern Japan.

Hank Sasaki, a veteran performer in Japan, has spent the past three years in Nashville. His goal: To become the first Japanese-born star in country music history.

"I want to prove country music can be international music," Sasaki said.

"Country music is about hard-working people and songs telling about ordinary human life — sadness, hope."

"Country music relates to everybody, no matter where you're from or what language you speak. They are songs everybody can sing, even children."

Sasaki, who won't reveal his age, was born and raised in a small village in Japan. He traces his interest in country music to when he was 15 and heard a Hank Williams song on the radio.

"It touched my heart. I almost cried," he said.

About the same time, his mother bought him a guitar.

At 18, he moved to the city of Fukuoka and joined a Japanese country music band.

He spent eight years with the group, performing often at nearby U.S. military bases. U.S. servicemen nick-

Charlie Haden — a man who launched a musical revolution

By Charles J. Gans
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's been more than 30 years since bassist Charlie Haden helped launch a musical revolution with Ornette Coleman's "free jazz" quartet. Today, he remains an insurgent, combining a passion for creative music with a deep-rooted concern for human rights and racial equality.

At a time when young jazz musicians are playing older styles like Bebop, the 54-year-old Haden continues to expand his musical horizons.

His deep, rich bass can be heard on recent albums with a wide range of styles: Pop musicians Rickie Lee Jones and Bruce Hornsby; jazz musicians Stan Getz, David Sanborn and Paul Bley; Portuguese 14-string guitar master Carlos Paredes and Gonzalez Rubalcaba, a Cuban jazz pianist Haden discovered on a 1986 trip to Havana.

"Every album that I make, I always feel a responsibility to bring deep values to people," said the soft-spoken Haden, who looks more professorial than revolutionary with his horn-rimmed glasses and short, gray-flecked hair.

"I try to reach as many people as possible with a message of hope and beauty, because it's so important to bring back the depth into this world that's taken away by all of these idiots that just want to make all this money."

Haden regularly wins Jazz magazine polls as the top acoustic bassist. Like the late

Charles Mingus, Haden has gone beyond the bassist's traditional background role to establish himself as a bandleader and composer.

In July, Haden toured European festivals with his Liberation Music Orchestra (LMO), whose roots go back to the Vietnam protest era of the late 1960s.

The orchestra has recorded three critically acclaimed albums mixing jazz and politics: "Liberation Music Orchestra" in 1969; "Ballad Of The Fallen" in 1983, and this year's "Dream Keeper" which was co-produced by labels in the United States (Blue Note), Japan (Disc Union) and France (Polygram).

The title track on "Dream Keeper" is a suite based on a poem by Langston Hughes about racism. Into it, Carla Bley — who arranged all three LMO albums — has woven a traditional Venezuelan song, a revolutionary song from El Salvador, and an anthem from the Spanish civil war.

Another highlight is a jazz version of the African National Congress' anthem "Nkosi Sikelel' I Africa" with passionate solos by saxophonists Dewey Redman and Ken McIntyre.

Haden has long been involved in "world music" fusions with musicians from other cultures. His latest such collaboration is "Dialogues," a duet recording with Paredes, a guitarist rooted in the Portuguese Fado tradition.

"It was just like playing with Ornette Coleman — you have to listen to every note that he plays as you're play-

ing," Haden said of Paredes. "I don't like to force musicians from other countries to play jazz. I like to play with them what they're playing."

Haden says his openness to different forms of music developed from his country music background.

Haden was born in 1937 in Spenandoah, Iowa. His musical schooling came from performing for age 2 until age 15 in the Haden family's country music band. He grew up with folk and hillbilly music, Gospel in the black churches, and classical, Latin and jazz music on the radio.

His older brother, Jim, was a bass player, and Charlie taught himself to read music and play along with his brother's jazz records.

Haden finished high school in Forsyth, in the Ozarks, and began performing with a small band and on a local television programme.

In 1956, the 19-year-old left for Los Angeles, where he enrolled in the Westside College of Modern Music. He soon dropped out, preferring numerous jam sessions to the classroom.

Haden learned to play the Bebop standards, but then began hearing other ways to improvise. He found a soul mate when he heard Coleman playing his plastic alto sax at a 1957 Jam session at a local club.

"The first time I played with Ornette, it was like the lights were turned on for me because there was someone else who was hearing and doing the same thing I was," Haden recalled. "I wanted to play on the inspiration of a

composition rather than on the chord structure."

With Coleman, "It was like

composition rather than on the chord structure."

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With Coleman, "It was like

Giving Directions

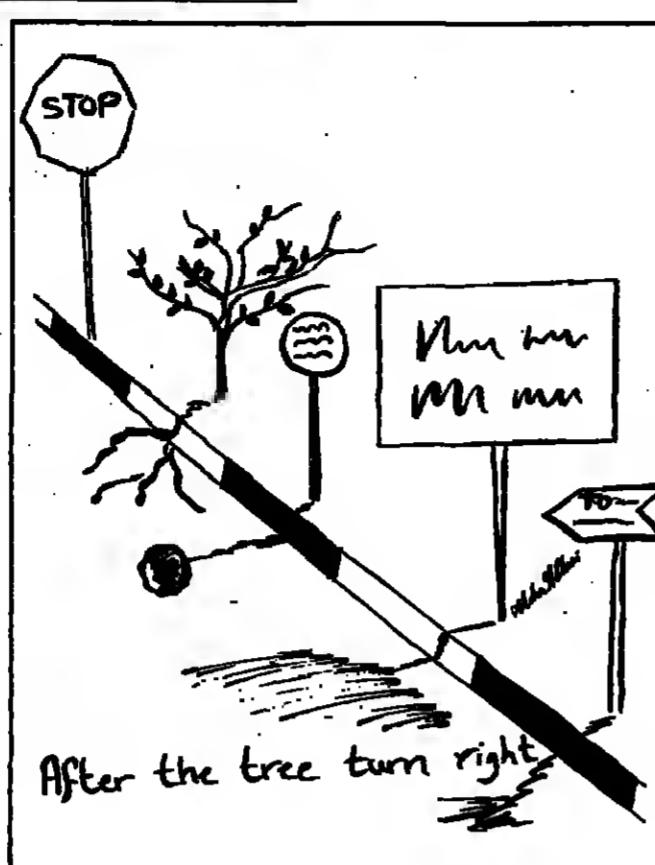
By Maha Addasi

ASK anyone at random for directions to their house and it will be a surefire way to make your head spin. The directions will be something like this: You go to such and such circle and then take the first right turn. Then you will come across a huge bump in the road. There you would turn right again. You'll see two trees. You turn left after the big tree. Right after your turn you will find a mound of sand used for the construction of a house in the area and this opposite that is our house. If I were given directions such as these I would no longer want to visit those people. I'd give up when a tree is considered a landmark. Or better yet a sand mound. What if the tree was eaten by a goat that week. Or the construction people used up the entire sand-pile. Then what?

Of course there is another alternative which is to follow behind in your car as the person you are visiting leads in his or her car. And if you are in the leading car your patience will be tried like no other time. The person following you either tailgates you so you can't breathe and they can't even see the left and right signals. Or they follow one mile behind you and end up getting caught at every traffic light so that by the time this happens for the third time you just want to drive off. You don't want them to visit you any more.

The third alternative is to shove your visitors in your car and take them home with you. At which time they will gossip all the way to your house and not even take note of the landmarks and directions. You are back at square one.

Some people draw maps. They're clear as mud, but nevertheless, they are maps. Maps are something we are in dire need of. The houses are numbered. The streets are named, (although the names are often hidden behind, you guessed it, sandmounds and overgrown trees). Why not make your own personalised, professional looking maps? All you need to do is get a map of Jordan and make



miniature prints of the area your house is in. Enlarge it and add all the detailed directions and your trees. Then reduce it once again. After that you could find a print shop and have this personal map reprinted. To get to the print shop, I'm afraid you need directions.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE

THE SAPPHIRE

Family: Corundum. **Colour:** From pale to cornflower blue. Also found in shades of green, pink, purple, orange and yellow. **Geographical sources:** Australia, Kalimantan, Burma, Ceylon, Kashmir, Thailand and America.

Legendary background: The gem of the soul and autumn, considered the most spiritual of all gems representing the purity of the soul as it mirrors the blue of heaven. By wearing a sapphire it was thought possible to reject envy and attract divine favour. According to the ancients it possessed power to influence spirits, to charm against wantonness, to promote peace and to protect its owner from

captivity. The Persians thought that the earth rested on a giant sapphire whose pale blue reflection could be seen in the sky. Sorcerers honoured it more than any other stone as it allegedly allowed them to hear and to understand the most obscure of oracles.

Qualities: Charm and enduring love.

Jewellery interpretations: Over the centuries it has had a place of honour in the Royal Regalia. Two appear in the British Imperial State Crown, one of which was owned by Edward the Confessor. A Pope in the 6th century decreed that a sapphire ring could be worn on the right hand of cardinals to make the blessing. The rare "Star" sapphire viewed from above gives a six-rayed effect, due to the peculiar crystal structure reflecting the light.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Sept. 5

1514 — Selim I of Turkey enters Tabriz, Persia.

1550 — Duke of Parma, advancing from the Netherlands, forces France's King Henry IV to lift siege of Paris in Catholic League War.

1658 — Dutch take Jaffnapatam, last Portuguese possession in Ceylon.

1658 — New East India Company is granted charter by King William III of England; Peter the Great executes the Strelitz rebels in Russia and imposes tax on beards.

1798 — Turkey declares war on France.

1860 — Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, Russia and Turkey sign treaty to restore order in Syria after massacre of Christians by Druzes.

1864 — Combined British, French and Dutch fleets attack Japan in Shimonesko Straits in reprisal for closing ports and expelling foreigners.

1905 — Treaty of Portsmouth (New Hampshire, U.S.), with U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt mediating, ends Russo-Japanese War.

1939 — United States proclaims neutrality, in World War II.

1949 — Arrests are made in Saudi Arabia following reports of abortive coup.

1977 — Gunmen in West Germany kidnap prominent German industrialist Hanns-Martin Schleyer and kill four of his bodyguards.

1986 — Four gunmen holding hijacked Pan Am jet in Pakistan open fire on passengers without warning, and witnesses say at least 100 people are gunned down.

1987 — Israeli jets blast Palestinian bases near Sidon, killing 41 people and wounding 60.

1989 — Hundreds of thousands of blacks begin two-day strike in South Africa on eve of segregated elections.

1990 — Iraq renews call for

holy war against Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations supporting blockade.

Friday, Sept. 6

1565 — Spanish troops arrive from Sicily, and Turks are forced to abandon siege of Malta.

1620 — Pilgrims sail on the Mayflower from Plymouth, England, to settle in the new world.

1672 — William of Orange captures Naarden in Holland.

1688 — Turks lose Belgrade to Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I, whose forces subsequently occupy Bosnia, Serbia and Wallachia.

1715 — Jacobite uprising known as "the fifteen" begins at Braemar in Scotland.

1742 — Britain and France begin naval battle of Cuddalore off Madras, India.

1813 — French under Michel Ney are defeated by Prussians at Dennewitz in Germany.

1914 — First battle of the Marne begins in World War I.

1926 — Chiang Kai-Shek's forces reach Hankow in his northern campaign in Chinese civil war.

1935 — Anti-Greek riots break out at Istanbul and Izmir in Turkey.

1945 — India invades West Pakistan and bombs city of Lahore.

1966 — Prime Minister Hendrik F. Verwoerd of South Africa is stabbed to death during parliament session in Cape Town.

1975 — More than 2,300 people are killed by earthquake in eastern Turkey.

1987 — Chadian troops strike into Libyan territory for first time and claim to have annihilated a military air-ground complex.

1988 — Iraq government declares amnesty for anti-government Kurds.

1989 — Cuban airliner crashes into suburb on takeoff from Havana, killing 170 people.

1990 — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announces plans to reinforce her country's troops in the Gulf.

Saturday, Sept. 7

1599 — Britain's Earl of Essex signs truce with Irish rebel Tyrone.

1701 — Treaty of the Hague, known as the Grand Alliance, is signed, whereby Britain, Holland and Holy Roman Empire ally against France.

1789 — France signs peace of Baden with Holy Roman Empire, whereby France keeps Alsace and Strasbourg.

1764 — Stanislaus Poniatowski, protege of Russia, is elected King of Poland.

1812 — Russians begin retreat after defeat by French at Borodino and begin to abandon Moscow.

1822 — Brazil proclaims independence from Portugal.

1848 — Serfdom is abolished in Austria.

1901 — Peace of Peking ends boxer rebellion in China.

1931 — Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi attends second India roundtable conference in London which fails to reach agreement on representation of religious minorities.

1939 — German army overruns Pomerania and Silesia in Poland.

1945 — U.S. President Harry Truman, at end of World War II, receives surrender paper signed by Japanese aboard U.S. battleship Missouri.

1944 — First German V-2 rockets land in Britain.

1954 — South East Asia Defence Treaty and Pacific Charter is signed in Manila by Britain, France, United States, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines.

1972 — Israeli Air Force attacks 10 Palestinian bases and naval installations in Syria and Lebanon.

1987 — West German engineer Alfred Schmidt is released by Shi'ite Muslim kidnappers in Beirut, after seven months as captive.

1988 — Growing unrest prompts several foreign countries to order families of diplomats evacuated from Burma.

1989 — Sri Lanka government, in bid to end country's ethnic conflict, invites Sinhalese and Tamil militants for peace talks.

1990 — Japan and South Korea join Kuwait in pledging to contribute to massive costs of economic and military campaign against Iraq in the Gulf.

Sunday, Sept. 8

1494 — France's King Charles VIII enters Turin, Italy, seeking to establish his claim to the throne of Naples.

1545 — Britain's Earl of Hertford leads punitive raid into Scotland.

1769 — Wisconsin in North America comes under English control after being French territory.

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JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 5

8:30 Family Man

Throw Mama From The House

The family has a visitor — grandma, Jack's mother — and there is a celebration of Jack's birthday.

9:10 Outlaws

Independents

Starring: Rod Taylor

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Boom Town

Starring: Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy, Clodette Colbert and Hedy Lamar

Friday, Sept. 6

8:30 Night Court

9:10 Forever Green

Starring: Pauline Collins and John Alderton

10:00 News in English

Saturday, Sept. 7

8:30 Kate And Allie

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Classical Music

10:00 New in English

10:00 Feature Film

The Waltz King

By Michael Bello

Reuter

BOSTON — The undersea explorer who found the Titanic and Nazi Germany's battleship Bismarck has set his sights on another wreck — John F. Kennedy's first command, PT-109.

Robert Ballard is planning an advance mission to the South Pacific to determine whether it is worthwhile to send a major expedition to photograph several ships

sunk in the World War II Battle of Guadalcanal.

Some 100 ships sank in the battle, including a small patrol torpedo boat lost in the first hours of fighting when it was sliced in half by the Japanese destroyer Amagiri.

Navy Lieutenant Kennedy, commander of PT-109, became a war hero by saving many of his crew. He returned home to a political career which took him to the White House.

It might be like looking for a needle in a haystack,"

Ballard believes that after the crash the stern of the mostly wooden patrol boat sank to the seabed and the bow eventually washed ashore where it broke up.

So what is left to find?

"There may be an engine and the ship's torpedo launchers still lying under 460 metres of water," said Mr. Ballard, a scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

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Organs for sale

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — The case of Californian baby Marissa Ayala, deliberately conceived for the life-saving bone marrow she was able to supply to her dying older sister, has touched off a new round of moral soul-searching in medical and theological circles. Is it right, people have been asking, for a couple to bring a child into the world with the sole aim of using parts of that infant's body to save another member of the family?

In general, public opinion appears to have come down in favour of the Ayalas. They took the only chance they had of saving their 19-year-old daughter fatally ill with a chronic strain of leukemia, and their gamble paid off. The bone marrow transplant on the elder sister appears to have been a success, and the younger child, now 17 months old, is none the worse for her ordeal and ready to get on with the rest of her life.

But the Ayala case has highlighted other dilemmas, far more difficult to answer. The Californian couple resorted to extremes because they were unable to find an existing donor within the family, whose bone marrow would have been compatible. But every day that situation repeats itself around the world, say transplant surgeons meeting in Rome. Every day, they say, doctors are forced to make difficult decisions about who should live and who should die — and about how many questions they should be asking about the provenance of organs used in transplants.

A desperate worldwide shortage of organs from cadavers — the traditional source of hearts, kidneys, lungs, livers and corneas for transplants — means more and more people are dying needlessly, say medical experts. In the U.S. and Europe, there are simply not enough people who die young and healthy to satisfy the growing demand for transplant operations. Ironically, seat belt, helmet and speed limit laws have all helped to drastically reduce the number of organs available to surgeons. Lack of public awareness and coordination between hospitals and doctors have done the rest. In the U.S. and Europe only one-sixth of the potential donors are actually utilized.

In many parts of the developing world, there is virtually no supply of cadaver

donors whatsoever, due to a combination of religious objections and lack of public information or infrastructure for transplants.

One answer to the shortage has been to turn to living donors, either those who, as in the case of the Ayalas, are related to the victim, or, more troubling, "volunteer" donors who are prepared to part with an organ in return for remuneration, usually in the form of hard cash. The former practice is now widely accepted in the international medical community, albeit with certain misgivings: A mother gives a kidney to save a child. Sisters and brothers donate a lobe of their liver to help a sibling. Wherever the organ is superfluous — the body can function quite well with just one kidney — or regenerative as in the case of the liver and bone marrow, the donation of an organ from one family member to another can be the only answer when time is of the essence and waiting lists are long.

How much is a kidney worth?

But the second option — the paid-for organ — has the medical profession writhing in collective agonies of self-doubt. Is it right for a healthy but financially burdened man or woman to deprive himself of one of his kidneys or a piece of skin in order to give his children a better education or put a roof over his family's head? Does the child of a wealthy family, suffering from kidney disease, have the right to live by buying an organ from a poor family in the developing world, when a child from Africa or India would certainly die? And at what point does the legitimate sale of an organ for the sake of the family stop and pure greed take over? Is it right to sell one's organs to buy a new car instead of things that are basic for survival? How desperate must a man be to part with a kidney? And how much is a kidney worth?

Only the last question seems to have an easy answer. A kidney is worth whatever a person is prepared to pay for it, and like any other commodity, it is subject to market prices, dictated by supply and demand.

At present, the going rate in India, one of the main sources of organs for the wealthier countries, is between \$2,000 and \$4,000, say doctors who have studied this growing industry.

And the black market in organs certainly is



Dr. Raffaele Cortesini, one of Europe's top transplant surgeons, heads the Society for Organ Sharing which aims to regulate the 'organ' market.

flourishing. "The problem is very grave especially in India and Brazil," said Italian transplant surgeon Dr. Raffaele Cortesini, president-elect of the Society for Organ Sharing, an association of doctors which aims to control the distribution of organs and which held its first international congress in Rome earlier this summer. In fact, evidence gathered by doctors suggests that a brisk trade in organs is operating in many parts of the developing world, including India, Pakistan, South America, Mexico, China and parts of South East Asia.

"There are some clinics in India that specialise in doing kidney transplants using paid donors, especially in Bombay," said Dr. Cortesini, who is one of Europe's leading transplant surgeons. Bombay is the centre for clients from the Middle East, say doctors. Madras, in the south, has clinics that tend to be patronised by wealthy patients from Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

In India, Pakistan, parts of Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe people openly run advertisements in newspapers, offering a kidney for sale. In Hong Kong earlier this year, a businessman contacted several doctors, offering to act as broker between patients needing re-

nal transplants and a military hospital in Nanjing, China, which would perform the operations and which claimed to have a supply of "volunteer" donors. In China itself, an estimated 2,000 transplants a year are carried out with kidneys taken from living donors. An unknown number is also performed using organs from prisoners who have been executed. In the Philippines, there have been cases documented where prisoners have been granted reduced sentences or parole in exchange for the gift of a kidney.

In the industrialised world, some countries such as the U.S. have placed an outright ban on remuneration for organs. Britain outlawed the selling of organs in 1989 after a Turkish citizen complained he had moved to London on the strength of a job offer only to be mysteriously anaesthetised and robbed of one of his kidneys. Germany is about to pass legislation in the wake of attempts by a clinic in Moscow to sell kidneys to patients in Germany.

As for the surgeons whose job it is to carry out the transplants, they are trying to come up with their own set of guidelines. But there is still no real consensus. "The idea of transplants is something that is so new and has developed so quickly," said Dr.

Cortesini. "Our culture has not kept pace. Science and technology have moved too fast." Like many surgeons from the industrialised world, he finds the idea of paid-for organs unacceptable. He is adamant he would never operate on a patient if he believed the organ had been sold by its owner, even if the transplant could save his patient's life. At the Rome conference, there was some discussion among doctors of a way of what Dr. Cortesini describes as "rewarding a gift" from a living donor. This could take the form of a social insurance policy funded by the government, he said. "The difference is between being reimbursed and being paid," but he added, clearly uncomfortable, "I am not convinced."

The furthest Dr. Cortesini will go is in admitting the idea of an incentive to encourage people to bequeath their organs after their death. This could range from help with funeral expenses to funds set up for the donors' children, left behind. "For us this is much more equitable," said the Italian doctor. "We have to discourage donors from the living and encourage them from the dead. In India they burn cadavers. They destroy the body, while at the same time selling organs from people who are still alive."

The aim of the Society for Organ Transplants is to bring about reversal of that situation, through a combined strategy which includes pressuring governments to outlaw organ selling, educating the public to accept the idea of donating organs after death, and helping to set up legitimate transplant centres in the developing world. Already there are transplant programmes operating in Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila, India and Turkey. New centres were opened recently in Oman and Saudi Arabia and one in Kuwait is being rebuilt. Often they are staffed by surgeons trained in Western hospitals and the standards are high — unlike those in some of the unofficial clinics. "There the results are often very bad," said Dr. Cortesini. "Once there are good centres in the developing world, the illicit trade in organs and the back street clinics will die out."

But while most doctors agree on the need to control organ distribution, at least one surgeon has cautioned the industrialised nations not to judge the developing world by their own standards. Dr. Raj Yadav, director of transplant surgery at Badra Hospital and Medical Re-



E. TOUBON © W.H.L. 1991

search Centre in New Delhi, says he too is totally opposed to the sale of organs from the poorer corners of the world to the wealthy. But he claims a controlled market for parts of the human body, donated voluntarily and in exchange for compensation, could be an answer for some developing countries that have no source of organs from cadavers.

Dr. Yadav's opinion, he says, is the result of more than 20 years of trying to establish a successful transplant programme in India. Although transplants are performed there, he says, many people die each year because of the lack of usable organs. In the absence of corpse-donors, surgeons are forced to rely almost exclusively on living, related donors willing to sacrifice an organ to save a relative. And their number is scarce.

"In the past, I have always been against anything but living, related donor transplant programmes," said Dr. Yadav in an interview. "But in the past four to five years, I have started to think differently. I have worked very hard to try to set up cadaver transplant programmes, and

plants, I may have been duped at least six times," he said. "They may say 'this is my brother or my uncle,' but I have no means as a surgeon of identifying them and confirming what they say is true."

In the context of the developing world, maintains Dr. Yadav, ethics take on a different significance. "What if, on the one hand, you have a chap who has two sisters to marry and a house to build, and so is in dire need of money, while on the other hand you have a fellow who is dying of kidney disease?"

The incidence of renal disease is the same in the developing world as in the Western world, and people are aware of the good results that can be obtained with renal transplants, he added. "What choice does the patient have? Dialysis is not available, as it is in the U.S. or other Western countries. There are no cadaver donors available. And if there is no-one able or willing to give him a kidney, what should a patient do? I think no ethics in the world will condemn him to die" — World News Link.

Green tea may protect smokers from lung cancer

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Japanese preference for green tea may explain why Japanese men can smoke more than American men but still have lower rates of lung cancer, researchers said Monday.

The researchers found that consumption of green tea cut the lung cancer rate by 45 per cent in mice exposed to one of the most potent cancer-causing agents in cigarette smoke.

Other studies in animals suggested that drinking green tea could cut the rates of stomach and liver cancer, researchers reported at a national meeting of the American Chemical Society.

But the evidence is far too preliminary for researchers to recommend that people begin drinking green tea, said Allan H. Conney, director of the Laboratory for Cancer Research at Rutgers Uni-

versity in New Jersey. "It's still too early to say what the significance of this is for humans," said Dr. Conney, who is studying how green tea and other foods affect cancer rates in animals. "My opinion is we should not ingest large amounts of green tea."

Fung-Lung Chung of the American Health Foundation in New York agreed that more research had to be done to confirm the cancer-preventive effect of green tea, but he added that one or two cups a day "wouldn't do any harm."

A researcher from the National Cancer Centre Research Institute in Tokyo was more sanguine about the use of green tea.

"We would like to think drinking green tea may be one of the most practical cancer preventions at the moment," Hirota Fujiki said.

Green tea is made from the same plant as the black tea

commonly consumed in Western countries, Dr. Conney said. But green tea undergoes less processing. Light processing converts it into Chinese oolong tea, and more extensive processing produces black tea, Dr. Conney said.

Dr. Conney has shown that green tea can slow the formation of skin cancer tumours in mice exposed to harmful ultraviolet radiation. In other experiments, it also inhibited the formation of stomach and lung cancer tumours in mice, he said.

Dr. Fujiki said that populations studies have shown reduced cancer rates in the Shizuoka Prefecture of central Japan, where green tea is produced and people drink far higher amounts than do other Japanese.

Dr. Chung noted that lung cancer mortality in Japan is much lower than in the United States, although the average consumption of green tea is higher among males in

Japan is considerably higher. Green tea is one of several factors that might explain that, he said.

To explore the question, Dr. Chung exposed mice to a substance found in cigarette smoke called NNK, one of the class of cancer-causing agents called Nitrosamines. NNK may be the most potent cancer-causing agent in cigarette smoke, Dr. Chung said.

Mice exposed to NNK three times a week for 10 weeks developed an average of 22.5 lung tumours each. Mice that were given the same exposure to NNK and also given green tea developed 12.2 tumours each, a reduction of 45 per cent.

Dr. Chung said mice developed an average of 16.1 tumours, for a 30 per cent reduction, when exposed only to the active ingredient in green tea, a substance called EGCG, or Epigallocatechin Gallate.

Gene-altered farm animals make human proteins in milk

BOSTON (AP) — Gene splicers have created barnyard animals that make large quantities of medicine in their milk, taking a big step toward the creation of a new branch of agriculture — "Pharming."

The scientists already have transferred human genes into goats and sheep, turning these animals into pharmaceutical factories. And they are close to doing the same with ultimate barnyard milk maker, the cow.

Genetic engineers now routinely shift human genes into bacteria, yeast and tissue cultures so they will produce usable quantities of otherwise rare human proteins for treating disease. The goal is to do the same with much larger creatures capable of churning out vastly greater amounts.

"We are very close" to having commercially useful quantities, said Dr. Vernon G. Purcell, a research physiologist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Maryland. "We may be there."

For instance, a genetically

modified sheep in Scotland produced up to 2 ounces a day of a human protein used to treat a form of emphysema. This is four months' supply for one patient.

Three reports on the creation of so-called transgenic animals are being published in the Sept. 1 issue of the *Journal of Bio-technology*, released Monday.

The first transgenic animals to make foreign proteins in their milk were mice created by scientists four years ago. Researchers have also designed other gene-altered farm animals, including cattle, but the goal has been to change the size and characteristics of the animals, not to do the same with much larger creatures capable of churning out vastly greater amounts.

"We are very close" to having commercially useful quantities, said Dr. Vernon G. Purcell, a research physiologist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Maryland. "We may be there."

Experts generally agree that transgenic animals must make one gramme or more of human protein per litre to compete economically with other gene-splicing techniques.

Dr. Purcell, who experiments with transgenic pigs, said the latest reports "may be significant advances," but "there are other big hurdles" besides boosting production.

Dr. Karl M. Ebert, director of experimental biotechnology at the veterinary school, said the researchers have since produced a goat that makes three grammes of

TPA per litre.

In another article in the journal, Dutch researchers from the University of Leiden and Gene Pharming Europe said they had produced the first transgenic dairy cattle intended to produce milk with human lactoferrin, an iron-binding protein. Their first animal was a bull, so it could not manufacture the protein.

A commentary in the journal described their gene-splicing technique for cows as "a dramatic breakthrough in enlarging the transgenic farm-yard."

Another team, from Pharmaceutical Proteins Ltd. and the AFRC Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics Research in Edinburgh, produced three sheep that made human Alpha-1-Antitrypsin in their milk. This enzyme is used to prevent life-threatening emphysema in people who cannot make the substance on their own.

One of the animals made up to 70 grammes of the protein a day. The protein is now derived commercially from human blood.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD NOT RECEIVED

drill rice lids

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York		Tokyo	
	Close 3/9/1991	Date 4/9/1991	Close	Date
Sterling Pound*	1.6945	1.6967		
Deutsche Mark	1.7365	1.7353		
Swiss Franc	1.5225	1.5200		
French Franc	5.9005	5.8962**		
Japanese Yen	135.85	135.85		
European Currency Unit	1.7184	1.7182**		

* USD Per STG
** European Opening @ 1200 a.m. GMT

Currency	Midweek Interest Rates			
	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.68	5.93
Sterling Pound	10.75	10.50	10.37	10.43
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.06	9.25	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.00	7.93	7.81
French Franc	9.12	9.25	9.31	9.43
Japanese Yen	7.37	7.16	6.81	6.62
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.75	9.75	9.81

Interest bid rates for domestic, quoting U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Previous Week		Date: 4/9/1991			
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm

* 24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		Date: 4/9/1991	
Currency	Bid	Offer	

U.S. Dollar	.689	.691
Sterling Pound	1.1660	1.1718
Deutsche Mark	.3964	.3984
Swiss Franc	.4516	.4539
French Franc	.1166	.1172
Japanese Yen*	.5059	.5084
Dutch Guilder	.3519	.3537
Swedish Krona	.1092	.1097
Italian Lira*	.0532	.0535
Belgian Franc	.0792	.0792

* Per 100

Other Currencies		Date: 4/9/1991	
Currency	Bid	Offer	

Barbados Dollar	1.7800	1.7850
Lebanese Lira*	.0770	.0780
Saudi Riyal	.1834	.1841
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1864	.1880
Egyptian Pound	.2100	.2300
Omane Riyal*	1.7400	1.7550
UAE Dirham	.1864	.1880
Greek Drachma*	.3500	.3600
Cypriot Pound	1.4250	1.4550

* Per 100

CAB Indicies for Jordanian Financial Markets*		Date: 4/9/1991	
Index	2/9/1991	Close	3/9/1991
All-Share	107.55	107.61	
Banking Sector	100.94	100.93	
Insurance Sector	117.32	117.12	
Industry Sector	114.05	114.34	
Services Sector	129.49	128.86	

* December 31, 1990 = 100

Britain lowers interest rates again

LONDON (R) — Britain's Conservative government Wednesday added fuel to speculation that it might be planning an early general election when it cut interest rates to aid recovery from deep economic recession.

The Bank of England (central bank) cut its money market dealing rate to 10.5 per cent from 11 per cent, a signal to commercial banks to cut base lending rates to that level. They quickly did so.

Dealers said the rate suggested that Prime Minister John Major plans a November election — he need not call one before July — and that he could win it on the back of an economy which now seems to be rebounding from the worst recession in a decade.

Labour said the government was cutting rates to keep its options open for a "cut-and-run" election on Nov. 7.

But the treasury insisted: "An interest rate cut was the right and prudent decision to make. We will not get involved in any political speculation."

The economy plunged into recession, threatening the Conservatives' electoral prospects, after interest rates were lifted to 15 per cent in 1989.

The credit squeeze was needed to curb a rise in inflation which had been caused by a credit-driven consumer boom during the 1980s period of Margaret Thatcher's premiership.

Rates have been progressively lowered since last October as annual inflation has halved from a peak of nearly 11 per cent.

Cheaper money has helped get the economy to bottom out and eases the pain of millions of voters who have monthly repayments to make on mortgage (home) loans — with the result that the government has lately done better in public opinion polls.

Wednesday's seventh cut since mid-February brought bank base rates to their lowest since August 1988.

Mortgage lender Abbey National immediately announced a cut of 0.4 per cent in its core rate. Britain's biggest lender on homes, the Halifax Building Society, said it would also reduce rates by an amount to be decided in the next few days.

Independent economists said the government had room for a further cut of 0.5 per cent in base rates before November.

The Confederation of British Industry, forecast in a report on the economy this week that the bottom of the cycle will be reached by year-end.

But Labour and its trade union allies still say that Mr. Major will pay a heavy electoral price for high unemployment caused by the recession.

Australia cuts interest rates in bid to survive

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's Labour government cut interest rates and reassessed its health policy Tuesday in what was seen as an attempt to ensure its political survival.

Rocked by recession and instability, the government, in power since 1983, has been floundering in recent months.

It trails the conservatives by about 16 per cent in opinion polls and Prime Minister Bob Hawke, who beat off a challenge by former treasurer Paul Keating in June, has been harassed by disgruntled Keating supporters in his government.

Economists and political commentators said Mr. Hawke, who must go to the polls by May 1993, must soon come up with a policy to break the political and economic stalemate.

There was widespread belief that the tide could be turned by Tuesday's surprise one-two punch to cut official interest rates by one point to 9.5 per cent and reexamine health charges imposed in the Aug. 20 budget.

"This has taken the sting out of Keating and could subdue the leadership debate," said economist Phil O'Sullivan of brokerage firm BZW Australia.

Australia's major banks said they were now considering dropping their politically-sensitive home loan rates, most of which are around 14 per cent for new borrowers.

New Treasurer John Kerin said the rate cut would boost the economy but, in his usual style, was cautious, telling parliament recovery from recession would still be moderate.

The markets had been lulled into thinking a rate cut was some way off by Mr. Kerin's cautious comments on inflation.

Economic analysts said the apparent change of mind was prompted largely by the need to take the heat off Mr. Hawke, even though party sources say he still has majority party support to again beat off Mr. Keating, now a parliamentary backbencher.

Labour's hope is that the interest rate cut will boost Mr. Hawke's public image and spur business investment to check unemployment, which stood at a seasonally-adjusted 9.8 per cent at end-July.

"I think the motivation for the timing of the easing is political," said Bank of America economist Russell Madoro.

Independent economists said the government had room for a further cut of 0.5 per cent in base rates before November.

The Confederation of British Industry, forecast in a report on the economy this week that the bottom of the cycle will be reached by year-end.

But Labour and its trade union allies still say that Mr. Major will pay a heavy electoral price for high unemployment caused by the recession.

Mr. Hawke also hopes the feuding labour factions, the left largely for Mr. Hawke and the right for Mr. Keating, will be placated by the inquiry into health charges he set up Tuesday.

The budget introduced a flat 3.50 dollar (2.60 U.S.) charge for each visit to a doctor under the national health scheme.

A three-member labour parliamentary caucus committee will examine whether the charge, unpopular with the public, should be scrapped and will report its findings early next month.

"The caucus is saying it (the charge) was a very difficult decision. It's seemingly indefensible," said Labor Senator Rosemary Crowley, nominated to sit on the committee. "They would like the opportunity to look at the politics as well as the economics of it."

Dealers said the rate suggested that Prime Minister John Major plans a November election — he need not call one before July — and that he could win it on the back of an economy which now seems to be rebounding from the worst recession in a decade.

Labour said the government was cutting rates to keep its options open for a "cut-and-run" election on Nov. 7.

But the treasury insisted: "An interest rate cut was the right and prudent decision to make. We will not get involved in any political speculation."

The economy plunged into recession, threatening the Conservatives' electoral prospects, after interest rates were lifted to 15 per cent in 1989.

The credit squeeze was needed to curb a rise in inflation which had been caused by a credit-driven consumer boom during the 1980s period of Margaret Thatcher's premiership.

Rates have been progressively lowered since last October as annual inflation has halved from a peak of nearly 11 per cent.

Cheaper money has helped get the economy to bottom out and eases the pain of millions of voters who have monthly repayments to make on mortgage (home) loans — with the result that the government has lately done better in public opinion polls.

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14 reported killed in Yugoslav truce violation

BELGRADE (Agencies) — At least 14 people died in eastern Croatia Tuesday in the worst violation of a Yugoslav ceasefire sponsored by the European Community (EC), hospital officials said Wednesday.

Ten bodies were brought to a hospital in Osijek during the night. Four people, including a 13-year-old girl, were known to have been killed earlier in fighting which included a heavy mortar bombardment of the town centre.

Croatian security forces and the Yugoslav army blamed the other for the outbreak of violence in the town at the centre of an area of ethnic tension close to Croatia's border with its archrival Serbia.

At least two more people were killed in fresh incidents in the breakaway Yugoslav republic during the night, Croatian Radio said Wednesday.

The report said the motorway between Zagreb and Belgrade was cut when Serbian guerrillas and army reservists launched a mortar attack on the village of Kosovac.

Spurious fighting continued despite a warning by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milošević to the rival forces Tuesday that violations of the shaky ceasefire could have reverberations across Europe.

EC foreign ministers agreed in the Hague Tuesday to open a peace conference with the six Yugoslav republics Saturday.

But the new fighting set back

hopes of an end of the clashes involving Croatian forces, Serbian guerrillas and the Serbian-led Yugoslav army that have killed more than 300 people in Croatia since the republic declared independence on June 25.

"The fact that the (ceasefire) commitments have not been fulfilled, that new acts of destruction and ceasefire violations are being made ... creates new dangers and risks in an already dangerous situation," Mr. Milošević said on state television.

"I call on all opposing sides and individuals to observe the provisions of the ceasefire agreement at once, unconditionally and without delay."

Mr. Milošević said the ceasefire violations called for unspecified sanctions but gave no details.

"The country is facing a great trial and an extremely dangerous risk which could affect all our citizens, all parts of Yugoslavia and even Europe," he said.

Under the ceasefire brokered by the EC, Croatian forces and units of the army are supposed to disengage and guerrilla units are to lay down their arms. But no mechanism for enforcing the truce has been put in place.

Croatian President Franjo Tuđman complained in a letter to the EC Tuesday of "continued aggression" by army units and Serbian guerrillas in his republic.

Colonel-General Marko Negovanović, a member of the military supreme command, denied Mr. Tuđman's accusations and said,

Croatian security forces had attacked army units first.

Croatian Information Minister Branko Salaj told reporters in Zagreb: "The outlook for the ceasefire does not look terribly bright."

Meanwhile Serbs in the northeastern corner of Croatia fired off machine guns Tuesday to celebrate its "liberation," claiming to have seized the area's last two Croat-held villages.

"We'll never be Croatia again," declared Zdravko Mrdža, an officer of a Serb civilian defence force in this town in Croatia's Baranja area. The region stretches south from the Hungarian border to Osijek, a Croatian stronghold 230 kilometres east of Zagreb, Croatia's capital.

Mecse and Bile, the last Croatian strongholds in Baranja, fell into Serbian hands less than 30 hours after the European Community announced a new ceasefire agreement for Croatia, the Serbs said.

AP photographer Franz Pammer said he saw Yugoslav Air Force planes bomb Bile, which is just outside Osijek, Tuesday.

Federal forces, whose obedience to central command has been questioned several times in recent weeks, have been widely accused of helping the Serb guerrillas in Croatia at the behest of neighbouring Serbia. Army commanders strongly deny this, saying their forces help keep warring sides apart and fire only



Serbian guerrillas take up positions to fight Croatian National Guards near the village of Borovo Selo in Croatia

when attacked.

Before the fighting that erupted after Croatia declared independence June 25, the 54,000 inhabitants of Baranja were approximately one-third Croat, one-third Serb and one-third ethnic Hungarian.

Most of the Croats fled into Croatia and to neighbouring Hungary after the ethnic hostilities spread to the region about a month ago.

Some of the purely Croatian villages, like Mecse, Bile and Branjin Vrh, near Beli Manastir are now deserted. Serbs say the last Croatian defenders retreated to Osijek.

Several of the deserted houses

in the region bear pockmarks of bullets and grenades, the scars of the deep mutual fears that have erupted into ethnic violence.

In Bonn, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Wednesday Germany could recognise the breakaway republics of Slovenia and Croatia soon if fighting in Yugoslavia does not stop.

Stepping up Bonn's pressure on Belgrade, Mr. Genscher told parliament that Germany would not stand by much longer as the Yugoslav army fought against the two republics.

In a warning to the Yugoslav army command, he said: "The hour of this recognition nears with every shot your cannon and

tanks fire. We will not be able to stand by and watch any longer."

Mr. Genscher said he hoped a peace conference called by the European Community for next Saturday in the Hague could take place but added: "Whether it comes off depends on developments in these days."

He spoke in a foreign policy debate during which Chancellor Helmut Kohl had earlier renewed Bonn's threat to consider recognising Slovenia and Croatia but without the urgent note the foreign minister added.

Mr. Genscher held out the prospect of German economic aid for the two breakaway republics and trade sanctions against Belgrade.

25 killed in U.S. plant fire

HAMLET, North Carolina (AP) — Fire engulfed a chicken processing plant Tuesday, creating an inferno in which panicked workers were trapped by blocked or locked doors, witnesses said. Authorities reported 25 people killed and 49 injured.

"They were screaming 'let me out,' said passer-by Sam Breeden. "They were beating on the door."

Blackened footprints marked a door where workers tried to kick

their way out to escape the fire, which gutted the building's interior. Workers apparently did escape through that door.

A reporter found a padlock on a door marked "fire door" — do not block."

Some victims' bodies were found at exits and others were found in a meat freezer, where they apparently had fled, Hamlet Fire Chief David Fuller said at a news conference. He wouldn't

confirm that the exit doors were locked.

The fireman found the body of his own father, a driver for a snack company who was stocking vending machines at the plant, said Joey Jernigan, a town councilman.

The fire started at about 1230 GMT at the Imperial Food Products plant, which makes chicken nuggets and marinated chicken breasts sold at fast-food restaurants and grocery stores.

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"We can reaffirm explicitly yet again that after 1997 Hong Kong will continue for at least 50 years the capitalist tradition that made it such a remarkable success," Mr. Major said after his plane touched down at Kai Tak International Airport.

Under a 1985 agreement, Britain hands over rule of Hong Kong to China in 1997. The prospect has made many Hong Kong residents nervous, particularly in light of Peking's brutal crackdown on the 1989 pro-democracy movement.

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Armenians are arming under Azeri shellfire

SHAUMLYAN USSR (AP) — Besieged Armenians are arming rapidly under shellfire from Azerbaijanis, fearful that the Soviet breakup is clearing the way for their historic foes to launch a war of ethnic annihilation.

"The Turk is capable of anything," Shahen Meghram, president of Shaumlyan District, said Tuesday, likening the conflict with Turkic Azerbaijanis to the massacres of Armenians in Turkey in 1915-16.

He said 50 Armenians had been killed since May by Azerbaijan security units, backed by the Soviet Fourth Army. Soviet troops pulled back on Aug. 24, but Azerbaijanis KGB special forces joined in with sophisticated weaponry, he said.

Shaumlyan, an enclave of eight Armenian villages in Azerbaijan, declared Monday that it was attaching itself to the adjacent Armenian region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which proclaimed itself an independent Soviet Republic.

Local leaders said Nagorno-Karabakh might seek to join the Russian republic as protection against Azerbaijanis who control a corridor separating their mountainous region from nearby Armenia.

The conflict has raised fears of

similar clashes elsewhere as ethnic groups held in check by a firm Soviet hand seek to settle old claims with bloodshed.

Since 1988, 400 Armenians have been killed in Azerbaijan, according to Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsyan. Reliable independent estimates say the figure may be in the thousands.

Shaumlyan, 450 square kilometres with a population of 16,000, has been cut off since 1988, supplied only by intermittent belic和平 from Yerevan, capital of Armenia. The aircraft must hug the mountain ridges to elude gunfire.

After Soviet and Azerbaijani troops forcibly deported thousands of Armenians in the outlying hamlets of Shaumlyan earlier this year, a local militia dug in to fight back. Militiamen say the Republic of Armenia offers assistance, but they won't discuss details.

Almost daily, fresh Armenian paramilitary troops arrive with rag-tag assortments of arms and artillery pieces, raising the tension.

"This is intellectual as well as physical genocide," said Larisa Agabedian, chief of the district's sparsely equipped hospital. "Our children will grow up physically and mentally stunted."

She said many children showed

signs of severe neurosis — slow speech, nightmares and learning disabilities — because of deportations, artillery shelling and machine-gun attacks.

Anatoly Shahad, a Russian Republic lawmaker, negotiated a tentative ceasefire in some sectors last week. But he said: "I'm afraid we may face a new war. Things look very bad. Because Azerbaijan has declared itself independent, it recognises Nagorno-Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan, which leaves it alone and quite helpless."

Although Soviet troops have taken part in deportations, Mr. Shahad said, they were also able to curb excesses by Azerbaijani troops. That may no longer be the case, he said.

Mr. Shahad asked Azerbaijani commanders at the Shaumlyan border if they would speak with an Associated Press reporter, but they declined.

Witness after witness in Shaumlyan told of beatings, rapes and looting as Azerbaijani units backed by Soviet troops drove Armenians from their villages.

David Leopold, an American lawyer from Cleveland who has visited the region three times, blamed atrocities on the "stone-age mentality" of Azerbaijani Interior Ministry commandos, the Omon.

"War seems imminent," he said.

Mr. Meghram, the district president, said he was heartened that Soviet troops are no longer helping the Azerbaijanis.

"We are waiting to see what happens next, he said. "If the Soviets keep out of this, we will be able to defend ourselves."

Among the Armenian troops, spirits seemed high. At the edge of the village of Karachinar, Garegin Mofesian laughed as he warned visitors of snipers. "I'll be here until they're gone. I live here," he said.

Mikhail Ivanian, commander of the Karachinar forces, took visitors on a tour of homes burned by fire grenades and exploded buildings, pointing out bullet holes in trucks and buildings as he might hunting trophies.

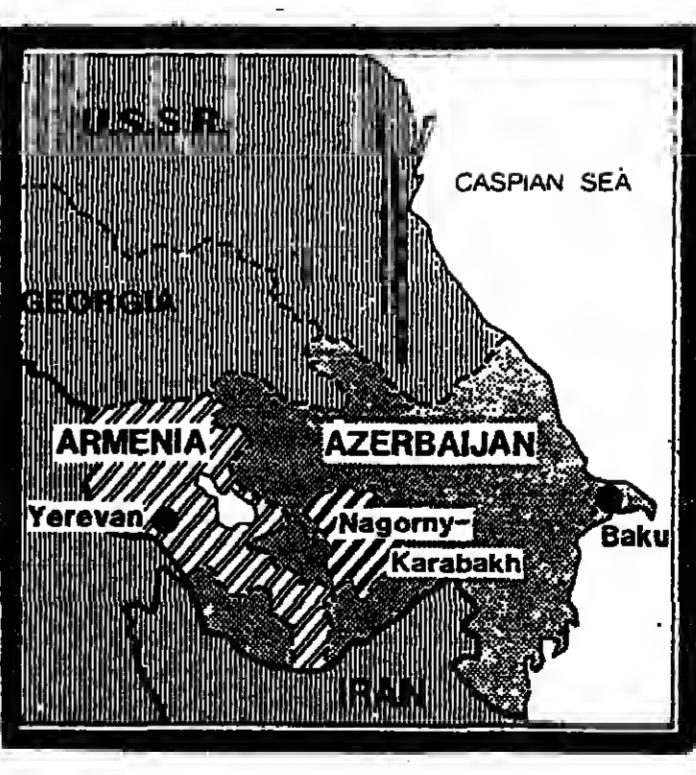
At the remains of a burned-out cooperative farm, he waved casually toward the nearby hills.

"I wouldn't stand in the open long if I were you," he advised.

Refugees are another story.

At the Karachinar Armenian School, ransacked by departing Soviet soldiers, a group of grim and shaken men told how they were forced to flee their homes in Shaumlyan hamlets earlier this year.

At the Hamlet of Buzuk, they



said, Soviet armoured vehicles ringed the village and Azerbaijanis lined up 20 trucks behind them. When helicopters roared overhead, all but one of the 360 inhabitants fled to the forest.

The stragglers were identified as Mnatsakan Minasian, a man in his 90s. "With binoculars, we saw Omon troops beat him repeatedly."

"I think they will kill me," he said. "I am afraid."

De Klerk's party seeks to bypass majority rule

COLUMN

Surgeons sew back child's hand

MELBOURNE, Australia (R) — Australian surgeons sewed back a four-year-old boy's severed hand which was found lying in the mud after a car accident, a hospital spokesman said Wednesday. The child was in a stable condition after a nine-hour operation but it would be a week before the success of the surgery could be judged. "It looks promising. It's early days but we're hopeful," the spokesman told Reuters. The boy lost most of his left hand when he was thrown clear of a car which crashed in Melbourne's outer southern suburbs Tuesday.

An ambulance who waited behind found the hand in mud after the car was moved, wrapped it in a towel and took it 70 kilometres to Melbourne's St. Vincent's Hospital where a team led by Professor Wayne Morrison performed the operation.

Vandals strip corpse of Akhromeyev

MOSCOW (R) — Vandals have dug up the freshly-buried corpse of Soviet Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev and stripped it of its military uniform, Russian Television has reported. Marshal Akhromeyev, former Soviet Armed Forces chief of staff and personal military advisor to President Mikhail Gorbachev, committed suicide after last month's failed bardine coup and was buried in Moscow's Troekurovskoye Cemetery last week. The Vesti evening television news said the grave of another senior military officer, whom it named as Colonel-General Sredin, had been similarly abused.

"Today it was established that from the tombs of Marshal Akhromeyev and Colonel-General Sredin the military uniforms in which they made their final journeys had been stolen," its reporter said.

U.N. plans more flagstaffs

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations is busy planning holes for new poles. With seven countries clamouring to join the world body, space is at a premium along the front of U.N. headquarters, where members' flags flitter from a long line of flagstaffs. The organisation, now with 159 countries, had anticipated the addition of four new members when the General Assembly session opens on Sept. 17. The Security Council last month approved applications from North and South Korea, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. But Tuesday the three Baltic states — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — also announced their intention of joining in time to take part in the forthcoming assembly.

Rock singer paroled from jail

SAN LUIS OBISPO, California (R) — Rock singer Ike Turner was released from prison Tuesday after serving more than two years of a four-year sentence for drunk driving and parole violation, his publicist said. The singer, half of the Ike and Tina Turner duo that had several chart-topping hits in the 1970s, will live with his daughter, Twanna Melby, in Vallejo, California, under the terms of his new parole, publicist Guy McLean said in Los Angeles. Turner was arrested in Hollywood for drunk driving. At his trial he was also found guilty of parole violation for an earlier drug conviction.

Japanese artist gives \$1m to fight AIDS

TOKYO (AP) — A Japanese artist gave actress Elizabeth Taylor a \$1 million donation to help fund AIDS research. Hiro Yamagata, a Japanese artist who lives in Los Angeles, presented Taylor with the check and a portrait of the actress at a Tokyo hotel Monday. The portrait will be made into silk-screen prints to be sold worldwide for Taylor's fund-raising campaign. Taylor, 59, who co-chairs the international programme of the American Foundation for AIDS Research, called for continued support in the fight against AIDS. "So long as AIDS exists, and so long as valiant warriors are fighting in the front lines to save lives, we cannot give up," she said. Taylor was scheduled to leave Tokyo Tuesday.